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# THE TIMES

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THURSDAY DECEMBER 21 1995

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## Record 27 years for burglar who terrified people in their homes



Clarkson: judges must  
note victims' trauma

By JOANNA BAILE  
A VIOLENT burglar who gloried in terrorising his wealthy victims was jailed for a record 27 years yesterday after being told by the judge that his crimes were far worse than robberies of banks and building societies.  
As he was sentenced to the longest term of imprisonment ever passed for domestic break-ins, Keith Bramble reeled backwards in the dock with shock. He will serve at least 18 years.  
Judge Clarkson, QC, who

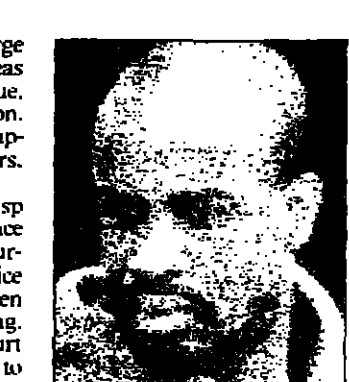
retires today, told the 6ft 5in burglar that he was being severely punished for his "wicked crimes, carried out against people in their own homes". He said: "Inspiring terror seems to have had an appeal to Keith Bramble. This defendant gloried in the effect that he could produce."  
"Far too many courts these days look with a certain intellectual detachment when they think about the effect they have on those who are the victims of these crimes."  
As offences went, Bramble's domestic robberies were more

serious than a raid on a bank or a building society, which were prepared for such crimes. Judge Clarkson added at Middlesex Crown Court.  
The residents in their homes are taken completely by surprise and with the use or threat of personal violence, they are forced to part not only with their money, but the rings they are wearing on their hands and their valuables which are of often of great sentimental value and utterly irreplaceable. This has a lasting effect which no judge ought to play down."

Detective Inspector Jon Shatford said of the victims: "They will never recover. They are totally devastated. A common feature is that they do not feel safe in their own homes any more. Nightmares are a frequent occurrence and they actually had flashbacks, as they describe it, of what happened."  
Judge Clarkson invoked special sentencing powers available under the Criminal Justice Act to impose a jail term 50 per cent longer than he would otherwise have passed. He told 36-year-old

Bramble that he would serve concurrent terms of 21, 22 and 27 years for the three robberies of which he was convicted on Tuesday with another six months, also concurrent, for assaulting a police officer with intent to resist arrest.  
Anthony Gabbidon, 31, who accompanied Bramble on the last and most serious raid was sentenced to 16 years.  
Police estimate that Bramble carried out more than 100 burglaries. Swathed in black and wearing a menacing "highwayman's mask", he used the cover of dark and

stormy nights to target large houses in up-market areas such as The Bishops Avenue, Hampstead, north London. He armed himself with weapons including crowbars, knives and a screwdriver.  
Outside court, Det Insp Shatford said: "This sentence will do more to prevent burglary than anything the police can do. Criminals have been treated leniently for too long. They are walking out of court laughing and we are left to pick up the pieces."



Bramble: gloried in the terror he inspired

Victims' ordeal, page 7

## Top staff to be axed in CPS shake-up

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

ALMOST a third of the Crown Prosecution Service's most senior lawyers are to go in a bureaucratic shake-up aimed at improving its performance. A new inspectorate is also to be created to monitor the organisation's work.

The changes are recommended in a Whitehall review calling for 18 senior CPS posts — all held by lawyers — to be scrapped. That would cut the number of staff at the top of the service to 50.

Standards of prosecution work will meanwhile come under the scrutiny of an inspectorate charged with providing "quality assurance" and improving performance. This team, which will start work next year, will go around the regions and assess the quality of the CPS's "case-work". There will also be a new "strategy board" headed by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The reorganisation coincides with a separate review of the CPS's functions being planned by the Attorney-General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, in response to police frustration and criticism from victims of crime over dropped prosecutions. Sir Nicholas has said that he is considering installing some CPS lawyers in police stations and giving the police an appeals mechanism when cases are dropped.

The CPS handles most prosecutions in England and Wales — 1.5 million a year — and the Whitehall review has emerged after a five-month consultation with staff in the 6,000-strong service, which employs 2,100 lawyers.

A longstanding bone of contention between the police and the service has been the number of prosecutions that are discontinued, the primary purpose for which the CPS was set up nine years ago. At present 11.7 per cent of cases are halted compared with 13.4 per cent two years ago.

David Nooney, the official in charge of implementing the changes, says in an interview

in the *CPS Journal*: "First, the service was still developing and maturing and required time to absorb further change. Second, there was a need for a coherent focus to improve the quality of performance."

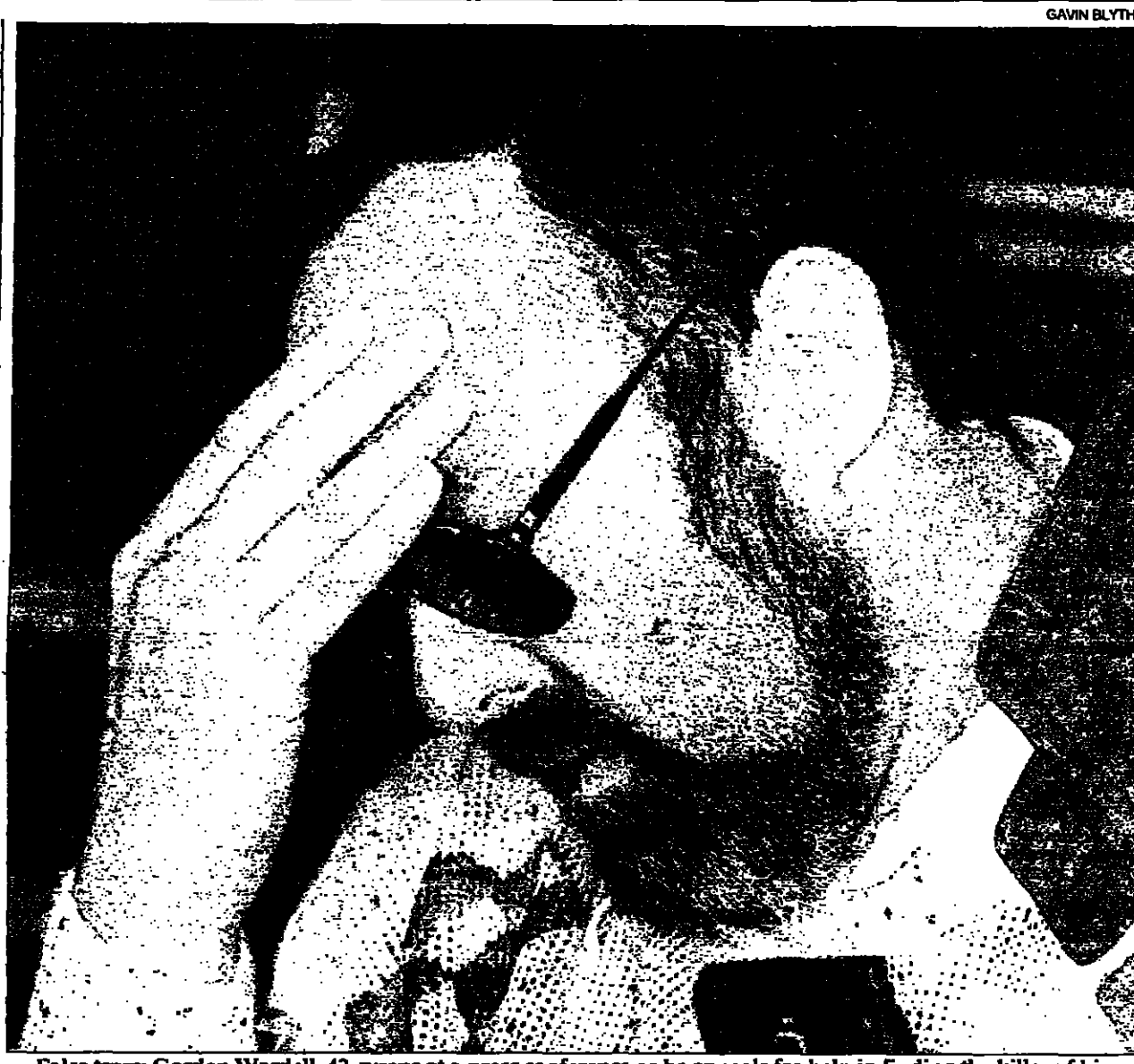
He insisted that the changes were not "primarily about reductions", but about "being better prepared to meet our current and future business needs". The review would "clarify roles and responsibilities, reduce bureaucracy and improve the quality of the services provided".

A key change is the plan to abolish the two assistant crown prosecutor posts in each CPS area — one responsible for casework, and the other for operations (staffing and budgets). Instead, one person will carry out both tasks.

Jacqui Nicholl, assistant secretary at the First Division Association, said: "We always argued that these functions should be combined — it made no sense to have them divided. But we are concerned that with one individual performing both, there may be pressure to concentrate on operations at the expense of the quality of the case-work decisions — the core work of the service."

The association was also concerned about the reduction of senior posts "on the ground" in the CPS regional areas, with an increase in staff at headquarters as part of the inspectorate.

Neil Addison, a former crown prosecutor and now a practising barrister, said: "These changes do not really get to the heart of what is wrong with the CPS. They need an external, not an internal review. Removing these posts is just fiddling; it does not really cut bureaucracy, just creates uncertainty in the lower ranks."



False tears: Gordon Wardell, 42, weeps at a press conference as he appeals for help in finding the killer of his wife Carol, a building society branch manager. Yesterday he was jailed for life for her murder. Report, Page 3

### QC appointed for lottery inquiry

Anne Rafferty, QC, Chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, is to head the inquiry into claims by Richard Branson that he was offered a bribe to pull out of the contest to run the National Lottery.

Mr Branson demanded last night that the role of Peter Davis, the lottery regulator, should also be examined. Pages 2, 19

### Bosnia handover

Nato formally took over peacekeeping in Bosnia-Herzegovina from the United Nations, signalling the start of the biggest mission in the alliance's history. People in Sarajevo said Nato's involvement marked the beginning of "great hope". Troops immediately began patrolling the ceasefire lines. Pages 11, 19

## Major airs Wales divorce

By ALAN HAMILTON

JOHN MAJOR yesterday spent an hour at Kensington Palace in private talks with the Princess of Wales on her marriage and future public role.

Neither Downing Street nor Buckingham Palace would say what had been discussed, but the Prime Minister is known not to favour any formal ambassadorial role for the Princess, an ambition she indicated in her *Panorama* interview last month. During his talks yesterday, Mr Major is also thought to have aired the question of divorce, but to have told the Princess that it is a matter entirely for the couple and not for the Government.

The meeting was arranged some time ago, and is one of several Mr Major has had with the Princess since her separation two years ago. The Prime Minister is also in regular contact with the Prince of Wales: their last meeting took place at St James's Palace last week.

During her television interview, the Princess staked a claim for a serious role as an ambassador for Britain, although she did not specify what she wished to do. Three days later she flew on a brief working visit to Argentina, visiting seven hospitals and clinics in three days and having lunch with President Menem.

MPs claimed at the time that the Princess had no experience or training for diplomacy, and also said that her presence in Buenos Aires

did no more than add lustre to the personal standing of the President.

Since the *Panorama* interview there has been speculation that the divorce process will be speeded up to clear the air, but lawyers for both the Prince and Princess continue to insist that no serious discussion on the issue has taken place between the parties, and none is planned.

Mr Major is known to be sympathetic towards the Princess's desire for a role. After her *Panorama* interview he defended her against the outburst of Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister and a close friend of the Prince, who accused her, in a television discussion, of showing signs of paranoia.

## Teenager jumps to her death after hospital release

By STEPHEN FARRELL

AN INVESTIGATION began yesterday into why a teenage girl who survived a fall under a train was released from hospital only to die after plunging from the fourth floor of a hotel the next night.

Jessica O'Riordan, 16, apparently tried to kill herself three times within two days in a pact with an 18-year-old friend, and her family last night criticised Southampton General Hospital for discharging her after she was pulled from under a goods train.

At 6.40pm on Monday, a policewoman found Jessica and her friend Sally Smith sitting on the edge of a 60ft bridge over the River Itchen in Southampton, but the pair denied intending to throw themselves off.

The WPC drove them to Southampton Central railway station, where Jessica jumped under a moving goods train at 9pm. British Transport Police took her to Southampton General Hospital, but as she was unhurt, she was released into the care of her mother, Maureen. Mrs O'Riordan, of Brockenhurst, Hampshire, is separated from her solicitor husband, Kevin, who works abroad.

The next night Jessica attended a concert by the pop group Pulp in Bournemouth and afterwards went to the Marsham Court Hotel, where she fell from the fire escape.

Mrs O'Riordan refused to comment

last night, but a family spokeswoman said: "We asked for her to be kept in at the hospital, but they said she was not hurt and she had to go home. They should have kept her in. It is what we wanted." The hospital insisted, however, that doctors had made the right decisions. Mrs O'Riordan had apparently satisfied them that Jessica was due to see a psychiatrist.

Hampshire Police also defended their actions, saying the WPC had spent "some considerable time" talking to the girls on the bridge and was assured they were looking at boats.

British Transport Police, however, expressed surprise that Jessica was allowed home from hospital when "by some miracle" she was unharmed by

the goods engine that passed over her body as she lay between the rails. "Throwing yourself under a moving train is not a cry for help," a spokeswoman said.

Christopher Dixon-Box, owner of the Marsham Court Hotel, said his staff were alerted by Jessica's friend shortly after 11.30 pm on Tuesday. "She was clearly distressed and said that her friend had jumped from a fire escape. She said they had both decided to make a suicide pact and had been looking for somewhere to jump off." They had chosen the hotel when they could not get into the 11-storey block of flats next door.

Pop culture, page 5

## Clarke blamed by Right for fish vote defeat

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND PHILIP WEBSTER

THE Tory Right yesterday turned its fire on Kenneth Clarke after the Government's humiliating defeat over the European fisheries policy.

Leading figures threatened further mayhem for the Government unless John Major reined in his pro-European Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The MPs, who said that backbench anger over Mr Clarke's performance at the Madrid summit last weekend contributed to the revolt, renewed their pressure on the Prime Minister to rule out a single European currency in the life-time of the next Parliament.

They said Mr Major should confront Mr Clarke, even if that meant him leaving the Cabinet, and they issued a warning that the Chancellor's enthusiasm for economic and monetary union would cost the Tories the election. They predicted that Mr Clarke would be in a minority of one, without even the support of Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, if Mr Major changed course.

Iain Duncan-Smith, a Maastricht rebel who supported the Government in the

fishing vote, said it was time for Mr Major to come out clearly against a single currency. He said two-thirds of Tory MPs wanted the proposal dropped and that most of the rest would follow such a lead.

"If we don't come off the fence and carry on as we are, we will go from defeat to defeat, crisis to crisis," the MP for Chingford said yesterday. "Last night was about saying to the Government it's time we took a stand. We cannot carry on as we are."

In remarks clearly aimed at Mr Clarke, Mr Duncan-Smith added: "No individual should be allowed to stand in the way of the party embracing popular policies."

However, the Right appears to be facing an uphill struggle to persuade Mr Major to adopt a tougher stance over a single currency. Informed sources said yesterday that while a minority of his close advisers favoured ruling out a single currency, the majority supported the Prime Minister's view that such a step

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William Rees-Mogg, page 18

THOMAS PINK  
JERMYN ST LONDON

## SHIRTS

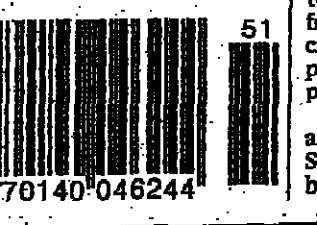
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# Fire and brimstone take the heat off Saint Peter

There could hardly have been a greater contrast between the two characters who featured in the exchange yesterday between Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, and the House. One of these characters was described by Mrs Bottomley, the backbenchers behind her offering similar descriptions.

The other was outlined in contributions from the Opposition benches, led by Labour's National Heritage spokesman, Jack Cunningham. By coincidence, both characters were called Peter Davis. First, let us examine

the man Mrs Bottomley came to tell us about.

He was "open, honest and thorough", she said. Later, she added that he was "proper". Sir Ivan Lawrence (C. Burton) agreed, finding him "decent, honourable and successful". Mrs Bottomley went on to call this man "meticulous". He was also "effective".

From Mrs Bottomley and her supporters came a paean of praise for the man she credited with enormous achievements in raising money for charity. In her judgment he had been more successful at this than anyone else in the world. We began to



**MATTHEW PARRIS**  
POLITICAL SKETCH

wonder why we had never heard of this latter-day saint before, but put it down to his personal modesty. It was good of the Heritage Secretary to tell the world, before Christmas, we longed to shake his hand.

So much for this Peter Davis. But there was another. Speaking for Labour and spluttering with moral indignation, Dr Cunningham described a fellow whose con-

tinuation in office was attracting "universal condemnation". Donald Anderson (Lab, Swansea E) went further: this man was "damaged goods".

Harry Barnes (Lab, Derbyshire NE) believed him to be dishonourable. Michael Martin (Lab, Springburn) said he was stupid. Some one else shouted that he was a "hyena". Most alarmingly of all, Mr Anderson

attributed to him "the smell factor".

Two men, then. One decent, honourable, successful, meticulous and effective. The other a dishonourable, stupid, damaged, smelly hyena. Could they by any chance be related? Would their mothers have recognised them from these accounts?

That MPs were in fact discussing the same man, the regulator of the National Lottery, would be hard for any observer, let alone his mother, to believe.

Yet that is the unreality which Commons debate can create. This was the House's

last serious exchange before Christmas. It provided, in festive vignette, a gruesome case-study for 1995.

The problem is getting worse. "New" Labour's habit of injecting moral outrage into every nook and cranny of debate has the paradoxical effect of letting the Government off the hook.

In the face of demands that she account for the fact that Mr Davis's wife shared antenatal classes with the wife of a director of GTEch, twenty years ago, and a Labour demand that she describe how such friendships had proceeded since then, Mrs Bottomley

sounded common-sense, assured: Opposition criticism overheated. "McCarthyite," protested Mrs B, and the charge struck a chord. "Mean and nasty!" shouted one Tory.

And it was, indeed, the outset to wonder whether Mr Davis did have the required judgment, I had swung by the end to resenting his assailants more.

If Cunningham and his team had raised an eyebrow, rather than the roof, they could have made Mrs Bottomley look feeble. In the face of Opposition fire and brimstone, she simply looked level-headed.

## Holloway jail chief expected to leave

Jane King, the governor of Holloway jail, is expected to leave her post in the New Year after the Chief Inspector of Prisons described conditions at the prison as "unacceptably low".

Two male governors are being tipped as potential successors to Ms King. Her position at the north London prison is considered to be untenable since the Chief Inspector of Prisons, General Sir David Ramsbotham, took the unprecedented step of halting an inspection at the jail and calling for "immediate improvements".

### Council cleared

An independent inquiry into allegations of nepotism and sectarianism at Monklands District Council in Glasgow has found no evidence of wrongdoing despite the town hall payroll including 48 relatives of councillors. Fifteen councillors who had been suspended by the Labour Party now look certain to be reinstated. The late John Smith was MP for the area.

### Snow hope

Snow on Christmas Day in London is a possibility, weathermen said yesterday. Snow showers are expected in Scotland and the North East and a drop in temperature in the South could result in a fall. If a flake hits the roof of the Weather Centre one man who bet £3,500 with his bookies stands to win £28,000.

Forecast, page 24

### Magazine move

Philip Jeffrey, the majority shareholder of the *New Statesman & Society*, said that he would be willing to "buy back" the magazine, which is being put into administration after continuing losses. Mr Jeffrey's initial refinancing plan had been blocked by the title's five trustees, who were appointed to ensure its editorial independence.

### Lawyer jailed

Graham Durnford, Ford, head of a law firm with offices in Sussex, Kent and London, was jailed for ten years yesterday at Maidstone Crown Court for stealing more than £5 million from dead clients and charities. Durnford, 52, from Battle, admitted ten specimen charges of theft. After his arrest his firm collapsed with the loss of 230 jobs.

### Christmas thief

A shoplifter who dressed as Santa Claus to mingle with Christmas shoppers was given 12 months' probation, fined £50 and ordered to do 60 hours' community service. Patrick Houghton, 30, of Norwich, admitted two charges of theft at the city's magistrates' court. He was found carrying a teddy bear, two cheeses, a chicken, and two balloons on sticks.

### GCHQ ban eased

Moves to allow employees at the Government's GCHQ intelligence centre to belong to an independent union of GCHQ staff, or a staff federation, were announced by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, in a Commons written reply yesterday. However, industrial action will not be allowed. Union membership was banned under Mrs Thatcher in 1984.

### Dog reprieved

A death sentence on a dog called Sinead was lifted yesterday when a judge said it was not a dangerous pit bull terrier, but more of an English bull terrier. The dog's owner, Roy Llan, 30, of York, was convicted of not registering the dog under the Dangerous Dogs Act, but appealed against the sentence to save it from being destroyed.

### Right blames Clarke

Continued from page 1  
would shatter the fragile Cabinet truce over Europe and derail the Government's efforts to persuade its European partners of the dangers of monetary union.

Mr Clarke is to represent Britain in the European study of the practical implications of having one group of countries using a single currency and another group excluded.

The Prime Minister privately hopes that the report, due in the second half of next year, will check the momentum

Tory embarrassment, page 9  
Letters, page 19

## MPs seek safeguard as MI5 takes on new role

By MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

MI5 OFFICERS investigating organised crime, the new role for the Security Service, must not be allowed to operate "independently and unseen", a senior all-party committee said yesterday.

The need for accountability and proper authorisation for any action taken by MI5 against organised criminal gangs was emphasised in a report to John Major by the parliamentary Intelligence and Security Committee which is responsible for overseeing MI5, MI6 and GCHQ, the Government's secret communications headquarters.

The Security Service Bill published yesterday states that MI5 will be able to act "in support of the prevention and detection of serious crime". The Bill is expected to become law early next year.

Tom King, chairman of the supervisory committee, welcomed the new role for MI5, but added: "It is vital that arrangements are absolutely clear as to how it will operate, in particular that the Security Service is working in support of the police and Customs and not as an independent force in this field."

The announcement was first made by the Prime Minister at the Tory party conference in October when it was emphasised that, unlike the counter-terrorist role where MI5 has primacy over the police in Britain, the Security Service would only be "assisting" the law enforcement agencies in tackling organised crime.

Mr King, the former Defence Secretary, said there were several areas that had to be resolved, including the manner in which MI5 officers would give evidence for the prosecution at trials, and the procedure under which warrants would be issued for telephone tapping and entering suspects' houses.

He listed a number of areas where MI5 could become involved, including drug trafficking, money laundering, counterfeiting, extortion, smuggling and international fraud.

Leading article, page 19

## Steel compromise bolsters Ulster peace efforts

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, AND NICHOLAS WATT

JOHN MAJOR will pay a pre-Christmas visit to Belfast and Dublin today after settling a dispute over aid for the Irish steel industry.

The Prime Minister will meet John Bruton in a further attempt to maintain the momentum of the peace process, which has been threatened anew by a series of killings in Northern Ireland. There are growing fears among the security forces that the IRA is embarking on a purge of drug dealers in the Province.

Mr Major's visit to Dublin was given the go-ahead after a compromise in the dispute over British objections to subsidies for a steelworks in Cork. The sale of Irish Steel to an Indian group, Ispat International, required the approval of all 15 European Union governments because it involved an injection of about £28 million in state aid, which is notifiable to Brussels under EU rules. British ministers objected because they said the deal would threaten British jobs and create unfair competition for them.

But Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said last night that the deal protected jobs at Irish Steel but not at the expense of jobs in Britain.

As Mr Major prepared for his one-day trip to Belfast, unionist politicians called on the Government to declare the murder of three men in less

than a fortnight a breach of the IRA ceasefire.

Ken Maginnis, defence spokesman for the Ulster Unionist Party, described the murders as a blatant breach. Security sources said they believed the IRA was behind the murder of Christopher "Sid" Johnston, who was shot outside his house in the nationalist Lower Ormeau area of south Belfast on Tuesday night.

Mr Johnston, a drugs dealer, was murdered 24 hours after Francis Collins, another drugs dealer, was shot dead in the city. Paul Devine, 35, recently released from a jail

### Loyalist jailed for ten years

A loyalist who had talks with the Government in the Progressive Unionist Party delegation this year was jailed for ten years for conspiring to run guns to the Ulster Volunteer Force, at the High Court in Edinburgh yesterday.

Lindsay Robb, 28, of Lurgan, Co Armagh, and two others, both from Scotland, were found guilty at the High Court in Glasgow two weeks ago of soliciting other persons to make available and to acquire arms and ammunition with the intention of endangering life.

## IRA uses murder to stamp authority on drug trade

By NICHOLAS WATT  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE murder of three Belfast drug dealers within two weeks highlights the terrorists' determination to maintain control of the drug trade in nationalist areas.

Security sources believe that the IRA is attacking drug dealers to protect an important source of income. They scoff at claims by some republicans that the IRA has a moral duty to stamp out "anti-social elements". One source

said that the IRA licenses drug dealers, who pay a percentage of their takings to operate in nationalist areas.

The IRA also has a political motive for shooting drug dealers. Many republicans fear that it has begun to lose its grip on nationalist areas since the ceasefire. Killing "social offenders" sends an unequivocal message to anyone thinking of defying IRA authority.

Detectives investigating the deaths of the five alleged drug dealers murdered in Belfast since April cannot go into

details of how or whether any of the latest victims crossed the IRA. However, security sources have little doubt that the men were victims of carefully planned IRA attacks.

Bill Stewart, the Assistant Chief Constable in charge of the RUC in Belfast, came close to blaming the IRA for the attacks yesterday. "Certainly these murders have been carried out with the same degree of meticulous planning and ruthless execution common to killings previously claimed by paramilitary gangs," he said.

## Respected QC will head lottery inquiry

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY  
AND FRANCES GIBB

ANNE RAFFERTY, QC, chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, will head an inquiry into claims by Richard Branson that he was offered a bribe to pull out of the contest to run the National Lottery.

She is one of the handful of women who have reached the top at the Bar, and won the acclaim of colleagues earlier this year when she was elected to head the influential 2,000-strong Criminal Bar Association, the first woman to hold the post.

Mr Branson said last night that the inquiry, which begins next month, should also examine the role of Peter Davis, the National Lottery regulator, in awarding the lottery contract to Camelot.

Mr Davis, who fought off calls for his resignation after he admitted accepting flights from GTEch, the American company behind the Camelot consortium, has been accused by Mr Branson of not vetting the company properly or checking on fraud allegations against some of its employees, before awarding the contract.

In a letter to Mr Davis last night, Mr Branson also called for the inquiry to sit in public, saying it would fail to command public confidence if it was held in private.

The inquiry was set up last week by Mr Davis after Mr Branson said that Guy Snowden, chairman of GTEch, tried to bribe him, an accusation denied by Mr Snowden. Mr Davis later denied further claims by Mr Branson that he had been told of the allegation. Mr Davis made clear yesterday that the inquiry would focus on the meeting between Mr Branson and Mr Snowden in September 1993.

Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, yesterday vigorously defended her decision to keep Mr Davis in his post. She told the Commons that, although Mr Davis had been unwise to accept free flights from GTEch, "he declared his interests appropriately. There has been no question of his having sought or received personal gain from the visits which he undertook."

"He has assured me that



Anne Rafferty will lead the inquiry called by Peter Davis, below left, into allegations by Richard Branson



there are no other issues which may come to light subsequently which could affect my decision in this matter."

Jack Cunningham, Shadow National Heritage Secretary, accused Mr Davis and Mrs Bottomley of showing "an abysmal lack of judgment" and called for a code of conduct for regulators of private monopolies to avoid further controversies.

Senior ministers had told Mrs Bottomley that to dismiss Mr Davis could spark a witch-hunt of regulators of

privatised industries and public servants. Before declaring her backing for Mr Davis, Mrs Bottomley had discussions with Cabinet colleagues.

She is said to have been swayed by Mr Davis's openness in declaring all details of flights and hospitality and by the fact that his integrity had never been challenged. A colleague said: "The easy decision would have been to cave in to media pressure but she has stood firm and done what she believes to be right, not what is immediately popular."

## Compensation plan for drought victims

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

WATER companies should be required by law to pay compensation of up to £100 when supplies are disrupted or cut off in droughts, the industry regulator said yesterday. But Ian Byatt, Director-General of the Office of Water Services, drew the line at compensating unmet needs under hosepipe bans.

The proposals for compensation, published in a consultation document, accompany fears that the situation in 1996 will be worse than 1995.

Under the existing rules

customers can claim £10 every time their service falls below a set standard. But the scheme does not include refunds during droughts.

Mr Byatt said under a revised scheme customers would be paid £10 a day up to a maximum of a £100 if supplies were rationed by rota cuts or standpipes.

Companies such as car washes and garden centres banned from "non-essential" use would be able to claim compensation for financial loss.

## Right blames Clarke

Continued from page 1  
towards EMU. The Chancellor, however, does not appear to share his doubts about such an approach.

As Tony Baldry, the Fisheries Minister, prepared for today's talks in Brussels over further cuts in catches, Mr Heseltine told BBC Radio 4 that the rebels were risking a Labour government that would "abandon all the safeguards that John Major had secured in Europe."

Mr Clarke is to represent Britain in the European study of the practical implications of having one group of countries using a single currency and another group excluded.

The Prime Minister privately hopes that the report, due in the second half of next year, will check the momentum

# GRRREAT MINDS DRINK ALIKE

## GRRRAHAM'S

Just roll it round your tongue.

### W & J. GRAHAM'S PORT

## Psychologist says killer sought 'aggressive, dominant and deviant sexual satisfaction'

# Life for man who faked ambush to hide wife's murder

By ADRIAN LEE

SCHEMING husband Gordon Wardell was jailed for life yesterday for the murder of his wife Carol, a building society manager.

Wardell, 42, had faked an elaborate ambush at his home and then a robbery at his wife's office to cover up his crime. He later went on national television to plead tearfully for help in catching his wife's killers.

After returning its unanimous verdict at Oxford Crown Court, the jury was told that Wardell had a previous conviction, imposed when he was 17, for wounding when he lured a teacher's wife to a wood and stabbed her in the neck.

Wardell, who had claimed the gang attacked him then kidnapped his wife Carol, 39, was described as an extremely

dangerous, evil and vicious man by the trial judge.

As the verdict was announced, Carol Wardell's mother Joan Heslop, 67, from Coventry, whispered: "Oh, thank God." Afterwards she said her son-in-law deserved a death sentence. She said she had had a "mother's intuition" that he was guilty.

Wardell, a warehouse manager from Meriden, West Midlands, showed no emotion other than to raise his eyes and blink repeatedly. After the case police, praised by Mr Justice Cresswell for their investigation, said he might now be questioned in relation to other unsolved crimes. They include the disappearance of two women.

Mrs Wardell's body was found in a lay-by in September last year. Her husband

claimed he was bound, beaten and gagged by a gang, then tied up leaving him unable to move for 16 hours after being attacked when he returned home from posting a letter.

The prosecution said he stole £14,126 from the Woolwich Building Society in Nun-eaton, where his wife worked, then left one of her sandals at the scene.

Speaking after the verdict, Mrs Wardell's family and Warwickshire police expressed their satisfaction. Mrs Heslop said: "A light has gone out of our lives never to return, but justice has been done. Carol will be able to rest in peace now. She loved life and was full of life. To have it taken away so tragically in such a way was terrible."

"It has been a nightmare for myself and the rest of the family. I can assure you all it will never be the same. I dread to think what we would have done if the verdict had gone the other way."

Mrs Heslop said her doubts about her son-in-law's innocence began the day after Mrs Wardell's funeral. She said: "I had my own suspicions but I felt guilty for feeling such things. Something told me it was Gordon."

Mrs Heslop said she would never know if Carol was aware of her husband's conviction and four-year prison term for his attack on the woman.

Mrs Heslop, who shared her home with Wardell for three weeks after the killing, all the time believing he and her daughter had had a happy marriage, said words could not now express her feelings towards him.



Gordon and Carol Wardell on their wedding day in 1982. Her mother, with whom he stayed after the killing, felt intuitively that he was guilty of murdering his wife

## Wardell stabbed first victim when he was seventeen

By KATHRYN KNIGHT AND ADRIAN LEE

A WOMAN who was stabbed by Gordon Wardell when he was 17 recalled her ordeal as he awaited trial for murder. Brenda Hayes, now 58 and the mother of three children, was married to Wardell's geology teacher, Peter, when the teenager lured her to an isolated spot in June 1970, squirted deodorant in her face and stabbed her.

She needed nine pints of blood, and still bears the scars of her injuries. The couple moved away from Solihull to escape the memory of the attack. Wardell telephoned Mrs Hayes one Sunday afternoon while her husband, who had taught Wardell for three years, was out on a field trip. "He told me he had found a plant that Peter wanted and could I collect it because he was on his bike and couldn't manage it," she said.

She was directed to an isolated country lane and waited with her two young sons, who were in the back of the car. Wardell arrived minutes later. "He grabbed me from behind and put a sheath knife to my throat. I thought I would pass out. He then said he was Paul Newman and said he wanted money."

They returned to the car, where, over the next 30 minutes, Wardell became increasingly angry and erratic, stopping and starting the car. "I knew he was on a short fuse and the violence was just there, waiting," she said.

He tied Mrs Hayes's hands behind her back and hit her on the head before leaping out of the car and slashing one of the front tyres. "He stabbed me as he was standing outside the car — once in the back of the neck and once just above the collar bone on the right side of my neck. I started bleeding profusely. I remember think-

ing 'I'm too young to die.' Mrs Hayes managed to shut the passenger door. "I pressed my neck to stop the bleeding and then he was at the door again, hitting the glass with the handle of the knife, trying to break it so I just drove off and stopped someone who called an ambulance."

Mrs Hayes was in intensive care for three weeks. The wounds damaged her nervous system and she still has scars around her neck. Wardell was arrested and charged with attempted murder, but pleaded guilty at Warwick Crown Court to a reduced charge of wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. He was jailed for four years.

"In my opinion he intended to kill me. I can't say I've forgiven him," Mrs Hayes said. "I can't understand why he chose me. It's terrible that it's had to happen again."

Her husband said: "As a schoolboy he was introverted and nothing stood out about him. It's sad that a woman has had to die for the point to be made and that he didn't get help in the first place."



Brenda Hayes: stabbed when Wardell was 17

## The jigsaw of lies that refused to fit

DESPITE Gordon Wardell's minutely detailed plans to cover his guilt, detectives found several pieces of the jigsaw would just not fit.

His story about a gang of hardened criminals who were willing to kill for money began to worry police. If the motive had been cash why had they chosen such a rural building society branch? Why had they taken only about £14,000 from the safe?

Why had the supposed gang not tried to rip off Carol Wardell's gold rings and chain or steal goods from the house?

Mrs Wardell had used a

personalised code to enter the branch's staff areas but she had been trained that in a raid she should use a different code.

On Wardell himself, hospital staff could find only superficial injuries. It was proved that he could have tied himself, and anaesthetists said it would have been almost impossible for him to have been knocked out for 12 hours as claimed.

Wardell claimed Carol had eaten at about 7pm, giving her three hours to digest it before her alleged ordeal. Undigested food was found in her stomach.

## Police investigate links with prostitute killings in the Midlands

By ADRIAN LEE AND KATHRYN KNIGHT

GORDON WARDELL may be interviewed in prison about unsolved crimes in the Midlands, including the murder of prostitutes. During their investigation into the death of Carol Wardell, detectives established links between her husband and prostitutes working in the Coventry area.

The prosecution at Wardell's trial said he and his wife of 12 years had not had sex for six months before her murder. "He found his entertainment elsewhere, let's put it that way," an officer involved in the case said.

Senior officers from three forces have already discussed Wardell's

possible involvement in the murder of Barbara Flynn, a prostitute in Coventry, and the disappearance of Nicola Payne, 19, from Coventry, who was not a prostitute.

Detective Superintendent Tony Bayliss, who headed the Wardell murder inquiry, said: "There is a possibility that Gordon Wardell will be questioned about other matters." He described him as a ruthless individual and the investigation into the murder of his wife as the most difficult and exhaustive inquiry he had worked on.

Paul Britton, a forensic psychologist called in by Warwickshire Police, concluded that Wardell was interested in "aggressive, dominant and deviant sexual satisfaction."

Mr Britton, based in Leicester,

played a prominent role in the Frederick West case. He said yesterday he believed it would be "prudent" for detectives to look at Wardell's movements in relation to other unsolved crimes.

"This is a man for whom there have been two episodes of gross violence in his life. It is highly unlikely there has been a silence between those two periods. I would suggest that between those two offences you have the probability of a range of other crimes. Some may be sexual and there is no reason why they should not involve violence."

Mr Britton said he was told by police that Wardell was a member of the Institute of Logistics. "That made sense of his attempt to

manage the logistics of this offence. What you have is a person who is extremely deviant and vicious. He believed he was good enough to put together a story that would convince the police and lead elsewhere. But he was inept in his detail."

He said Wardell's involvement in other serious crimes was "certainly discussed" with Warwickshire Police and it is thought they will look at a number of vice-related killings.

Superintendent Bayliss said: "This was an unusual case in that the death came first and the planning afterwards. The death itself may have been a spontaneous act but the fact that he was then able to sit down and calmly plan what he was going to do shows

what sort of a man he is. Most people in that situation would have panicked but he was very cool."

For almost a week after the murder, Wardell was not a suspect. His story that he had been drugged, bound, beaten and gagged by a gang of four robbers was plausible. But officers involved in the inquiry began to have their suspicions.

Two days after his wife's body was found, Wardell appeared in a wheelchair at a press conference. Every breath seemed to be an effort as he appealed for information about the gang and described his wife's murderers as "totally evil".

At the end of that week, a doctor treating Wardell told police he believed the injuries Wardell had

suffered, including punches to the stomach, were self-inflicted.

Wardell's conviction as a teenager for luring a teacher's wife to a secluded spot, where he attacked her, pointed to a darker side in his character. "That was only an indicator but it was clearly something that needed following up and showed what he had been capable of," Superintendent Bayliss said.

Mrs Wardell's relatives said that Wardell hid his previous conviction from his wife. Her brother, Tony Heslop, of Rugby, Warwickshire, said: "The family knew nothing of his past. The first we heard of it was when it was brought out at the press conference. I was staggered. I am sure Carol did not know what sort of man he had really been and

I have no doubt she knew nothing about the prostitutes. She was very naive in that sense."

Wardell's elderly parents, Frank and Betty, of Malvern, Hereford and Worcester, refuse to believe their son is a killer and say they will stand by him.

"The case was all speculation," Mr Wardell, 72, said.

Mrs Wardell, 68, a retired home economics and needlework teacher who once taught Carol Wardell, said: "I spoke to Carol on the morning she died and she was laughing and joking. They had just been on holiday to Jersey. Gordon had bought a necklace and earrings for Carol. Are those the actions of someone who was going to kill his wife?"

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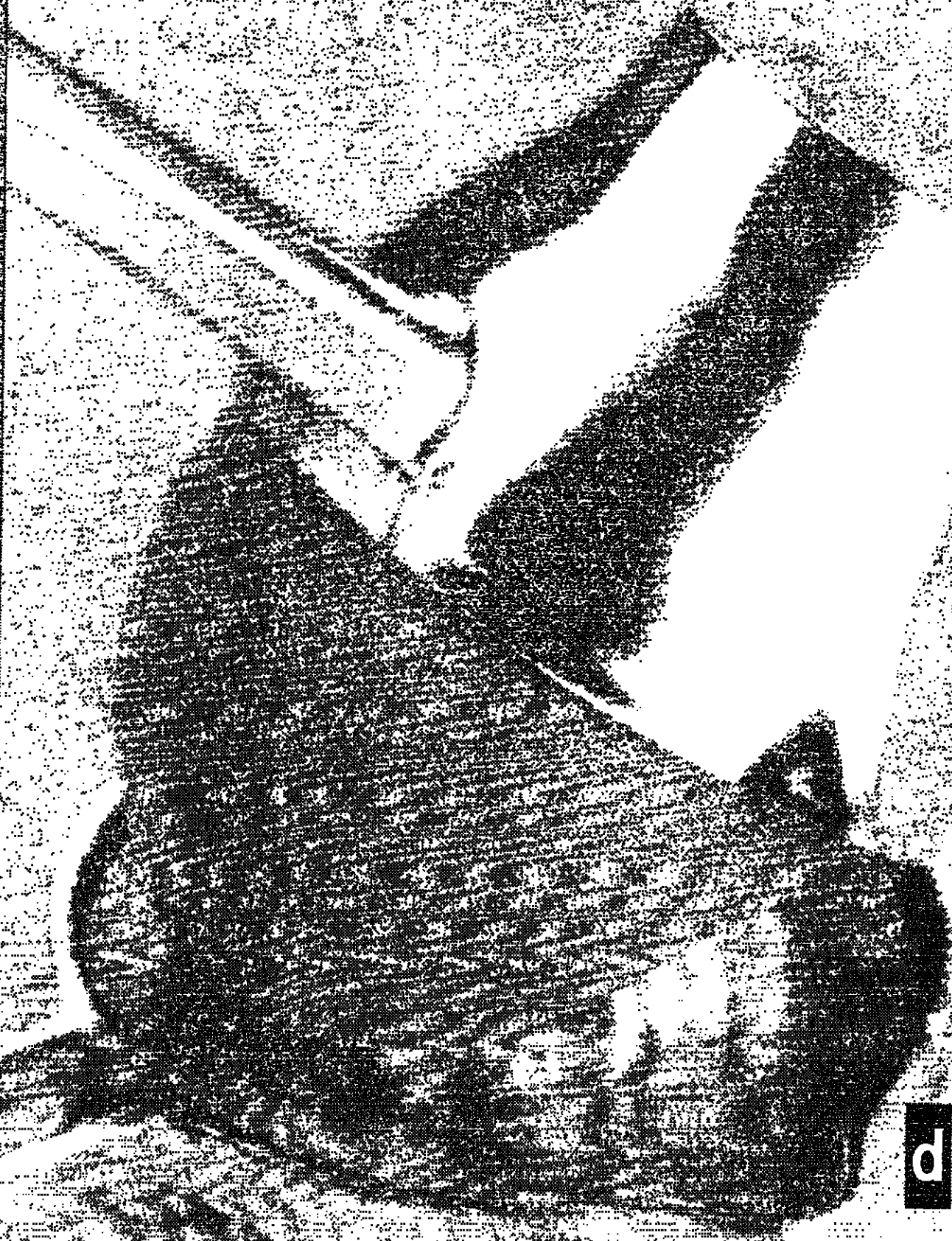


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Music and television heroes may unlock the inhibitions of suicidal youth

## Pop culture blamed for decline in teen spirit

By JOHN O'LEARY  
AND DAVID CHARTER

POP stars and other heroes of popular culture exert a growing influence on the lives of teenagers, an academic said yesterday after the suicide of a 16-year-old pop fan.

Jessica O'Riordan saw the band Pulp the evening before she fell to her death from a hotel fire escape after apparently making a suicide pact with a friend.

Jarvis Cocker, the charismatic lead singer of Pulp, disclosed recently that he had spent several months in a wheelchair after jumping from a building to impress a girl. Pulp are better known for singing about drug-related hedonism, however, rather than the suicidal angst made famous by bands such as the late Kurt Cobain's Nirvana.

Professor Leslie Francis, of Trinity College, Carmarthen, who has studied the reasons behind a sharp rise in teenage suicides, said the breakdown of traditional moral frameworks appeared to be responsible.

Family and church, which had acted as restraining forces, had declined in influence, leaving pop music and television to fill the void. He said they appeared to affect young people with suicidal tendencies, even if they did not overtly encourage the act.

"Hero figures can give permission to put into practice ideas that young people have developed but normally feel inhibited to carry out," Professor Francis said.

Cocker was unavailable for comment on the death of Jessica, a solicitor's daughter from Brockenhurst, Hampshire. He told the magazine *Time Out* in October that his own jump, in which he suffered a broken pelvis and right



Pulp celebrate the excesses of teenage life. The band's lead singer, Jarvis Cocker, second left, once leapt from a building to impress a girl

leg, happened ten years ago as he was "trying to impress a girl".

A spokesman for the band said: "I could not see him trying to glamorise suicide like some singers do. He is one of those people who has built himself up from nothing after being on the dole for ten years. He is not one to get morbid."

Pulp's lyrics contain little to glamorise suicide although they are full of evocative images. *Feeling Called Love* describes the emotion as "I've got a slightly sick feeling in my stomach like I'm standing on top of a very high building", and *Monday Morning* says "They say the past must die for the future to be born, in that case die little mother".

Sorted for *Es & Whizz*, which provoked an outcry for its references to drug-taking, ends: "In the middle of the night it feels alright but then tomorrow morning. Oh, then

you come down... What if you never come down?"

The Samaritans says that the drop in suicides overall, from 4,935 in 1982 to 4,628 in 1992, masks an increase among 15 to 24-year-olds. It estimates that women are

twice as likely as men to attempt suicide and young women nine times as likely.

The most frequently discussed problems in calls made by young people to the Samaritans concern relationships, coping with bereavement and

fear of the future. Suicide attempts accounted for about 80,000 casualty cases in hospitals last year, and were one of the most common reasons for the admission of teenage girls. But young men are much more likely to succeed at

suicide. When Nirvana's Kurt Cobain shot himself in April last year, fans flooded the music press with letters claiming him as the role model for a generation and America suffered a bout of copycat suicides. Many British teenagers

developed a similar obsession with the fate of Richey James, of the Manic Street Preachers, who disappeared earlier this year.

Dr Michael Gallagher, head of clinical psychology at Hull and Holderness Community Health NHS Trust, said: "Often victims have much lower self-esteem than anyone suspects. Greater access to the means to commit suicide, such as alcohol and drugs, means that impulsive decisions can prove fatal."

The phenomenon of rising suicide rates was likely to continue, Professor Francis said. "It is not an issue to be taken lightly. We may have to address it more expensively, through schools and counselling, if old methods are not going to work."

Jessica is believed to have tried to end her life three times within two days. On Monday evening she was found sitting on the edge of a 60ft bridge. Later she apparently jumped under a goods train but escaped injury. The next night, after attending the Pulp concert, she fell from the fire escape at the Marsham Court Hotel, Bournemouth.

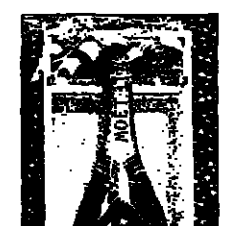
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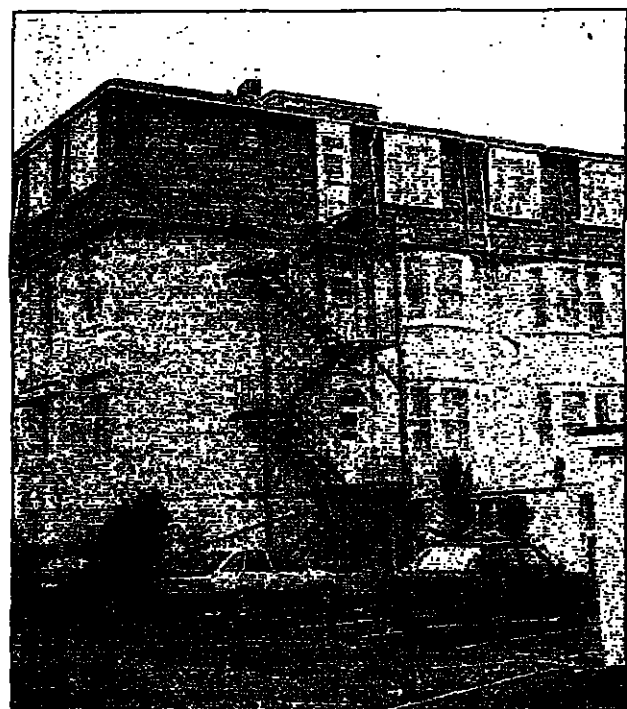
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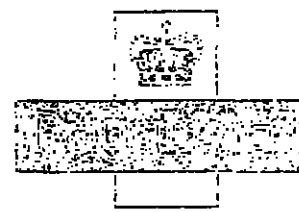
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## Female workers ignored, patronised or bullied says survey

# Sexist City men divide women into babes, mums and dragons

BY CATHERINE MILTON AND KATHRYN KNIGHT

WOMEN working in the City of London are still judged by their looks with male colleagues using a string of derisive terms to rank them according to their sexual potential, psychologists were told yesterday.

A Cambridge graduate who went undercover to investigate chauvinism in the City found men had drawn up their own dictionary of terms categorising their female peers as "babes", "mums" or, if they appeared to be feminist, "lesbians".

Sexually attractive "babes" were patronised while those unfortunate enough to be deemed "dragons" or "mums" were pressurised into performing menial tasks for male colleagues.

The findings come against a backdrop of high-profile industrial tribunals where senior city women have claimed unfair dismissal or sexual harassment. But many women working in the financial sector yesterday defended

the City. They said the atmosphere on trading floors was aggressive and men were just as likely to be on the receiving end of an insult as women.

Belinda Brooks-Gordon, a student at the Institute of Criminology in Cambridge, told the British Psychological Society that she spent a day undercover on the floor of the International Petroleum Exchange in London and interviewed female and male traders. She said men appeared to place women within five different categories.

"Babes" were young and attractive women who were treated courteously by men but viewed as decorative and professionally irrelevant.

Women that the men considered unattractive were branded "mums" while a woman who competed with men colleagues by spending long hours in the office and behaving aggressively was regarded as "one of the boys". Women who expressed support for feminist causes were



Leonard: "Men take as much stick as women"

defined as "lesbians", while those who were old or plain were considered "dragons" and treated with derision.

Once categorised, a woman was treated accordingly and either ignored, patronised or bullied. Miss Brooks-Gordon said. One employer she interviewed did not disapprove of the behaviour of his male traders. Miss Brooks-Gordon

said the ranking system she uncovered had implications for all women in male-dominated occupations who are undermined by the behaviour of male colleagues.

City businesswomen contacted by *The Times* last night said that while the picture painted by Miss Brooks-Gordon was not inaccurate, the lexicon of insults was not specific to women and anyone entering a city profession had to be resilient.

Carol Leonard, a director at Norman Broadbent International, a leading headhunting firm, said: "The city is famed for its lavatorial humour and machismo spirit but the men take a lot of stick as much as the women. It is often meant in good humour and should be taken as such."

Elizabeth Sullivan, who was the second woman ever to work on the stock exchange and who now runs her own headhunting firm, said the City had come a long way in the past 20 years. "When I started women were a five-minute wonder and were

treated as such but a lot of guys had a rough ride too. Many men still behave condescendingly towards female colleagues but most are reasonable if you give as good as you get."

One male city broker said: "I think ribbing your colleagues is endemic to the sort of people who are attracted to trading. It is a bullying atmosphere, but it's the same for everyone, although I can see how a room full of 30 men and two women would be worse for a woman."

Last month, Helen Barber, a City bond dealer for the Japanese firm Fuji Finance International, won a claim for sex discrimination after a tribunal decided she had been overlooked for promotion and training.

Her case followed that of Samantha Phillips, a trainee broker, who won £18,000 for unfair dismissal against a Lloyd's firm last year. She was dismissed after rejecting a colleague and claimed she was called a bimbo.



Brooks-Gordon: spent the day working undercover in London dealing rooms

## Shops boom as plastic hits 100 sales a second

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

SHOPS enjoyed a surge in sales last weekend as credit card purchases reached a record rate.

Barclays, which processes electronic credit and debit card purchases for a third of retailers, was handling 100 transactions per second last Saturday. This is the highest figure recorded but reflects an increase in the use of computers as well as extra purchasing by consumers.

Still, the busy Saturday has led to a forecast that there will be no last-minute rush this year, with much of the serious shopping already completed. Barclaycard users are spending 12 per cent more than last year, based on sales from November 30 to December 19. This comes after a rise in spending last Christmas of 10 per cent.

Yet the "feel good" factor may still be eluding the British public. When they were asked in a survey by Barclays how much they intended to spend this Christmas, they said it would be less than last year. "People are being quite gloomy but when we look at the high street it's not as bad

as many people would expect," Barclays said.

Decadence is out of fashion this year with the trend firmly towards sensible gifts. "People are going to be opening useful presents rather than throw away items on Christmas Day," said Ruth Parkhouse of the British Retail Consortium, which represents 90 per cent of retailers.

Computers are being bought as investments for all the family. Perfume gift sets are selling well, as are sweaters, scarves, socks and ties. The top sellers in children's wear are pyjamas and dressing gowns. Medium-priced lingerie is popular. The one luxury clothing item to survive the outbreak of common sense is ladies' evening wear.

Book sales are soaring because of discounting. Engraved pens have been selling well and Australian wine is a success in off-licences.

The British Hardware Federation said small power tools were much in demand. "A lot of people are going to be encouraged to do DIY in the new year," Ms Parkhouse said.



Eileen Connors, her husband and daughter at Gatwick

## Free bar blamed for flight havoc

BY ROBIN YOUNG

A FAMILY involved in mid-air mayhem on a flight to America arrived back in Britain yesterday complaining that the airline had been too generous with its free drinks.

Three generations of the Cash family, from Kilburn in north London, had been starting a £1,000-a-head Christmas holiday on a Northwest Airlines flight from Gatwick to Los Angeles. They were said to have created havoc on the flight, throwing food and yelling for drink, until the three most intoxicated were overpowered and handcuffed to their seats by amateur wrestlers on board.

Grandmother Eileen Cash said at Gatwick: "There was maybe a scuffle at the back of the plane but it was nothing too bad. We feel ashamed and embarrassed over it. They gave us drink on the plane. They should not have."

Her daughter, Eileen Connors, said: "We are embarrassed by what happened. We were just a bit noisy, we never

did anything." She added: "The children were very disappointed. It was a Christmas holiday. They gave us a lot of drink. Why were they giving out drink? People will get drunk, people are not used to drinking shorts."

"We were just friends going on holiday. I do not know whether we will ever get our money back. I certainly do not ever want to go back."

Her sister, Bridget Cash, said: "I think we were treated very unfairly. They kept giving us drink and then there was a bit of trouble on the plane. I do not want to talk about it."

Patrick Cash, 47, who was handcuffed and put in an immigration cell, said he was asleep when the trouble started and took no part in it. "I have been to hell and back. The way we were treated was just ridiculous."

Last night the family said they were hoping to rearrange their holiday and take a trip to Europe instead.

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# Coronation Street: the nation's favourite stocking filler



By DOMINIC KENNEDY

CORONATION STREET has pulled off the marketing coup of Christmas, releasing a feature-length video which has sold three quarters of a million copies.

Granada Television strategists have left their rivals breathless by the audacity of their ploy, a new concept known as the "soap bubble" which exploits the appeal of the nation's most popular television programme.

Five of the best-loved characters — including one who left the show several years ago — appear in a feature which complements the plot of the programme watched by almost 20 million viewers. The

video has shot straight to number one in the charts, easily outstripping *Batman Forever*, the newly released video of the movie which many predicted would be the seasonal bestseller.

The 35th anniversary edition of the soap opera several weeks ago was a cliffhanger, as viewers waited to see whether Raquel, the barmaid of the Rover's Return, would choose Curly Watts, the Street's lovable nerd, or Des Barnes, its handsome lothario.

Millions tuned in to see Raquel secretly marrying Curly and then disappearing for a honeymoon cruise unaware that Rita and Mavis, the corner-shop gossips, had booked the same holiday and

were sure to spot them. After the programme, fans were invited to rush out to their video stores to buy the film of the voyage. Viewers who carried on watching the soap three times a week on television were still able to follow the plot but the offshore antics were available only to devotees who paid £13 for the privilege.

By releasing it shortly before Christmas, television executives secured huge sales as gift hunters found the perfect present for fans. The hype does not end there. A *Coronation Street* mug which plays the theme tune to the programme is one of Woolworths' best-selling gifts this Christmas. The power of television over

British cultural life is reflected in the best-selling presents during the final shopping days of the season. *Riverdance*, a dance spectacular which began as an interlude in the Eurovision Song Contest, is making a strong late surge as a video, according to the Virgin Megastore in London.

At Woolworths, *Power Rangers* — superhero characters based on a television cartoon — are joining the traditional favourites Action Man and Barbie. *Soldier Soldier*, a drama about service life, is responsible for the ubiquitous Robson and Jerome, two actors whose misadventurous renderings of popular old songs have been dominating the music charts for

much of the year. Their album collection is the fastest-selling of the year, with more than one million copies already sold and no shortage of enthusiasm before Christmas. Queen and The Beatles have been reduced to also-rans. Robson and Jerome's *So Far So Good* is competing with Take That's *Never Forget* as top pop video.

Many of the most popular books have a television theme. *I Don't Believe It, Men Behaving Badly* and the *Red Dwarf* Diary, which are on the bestseller list at John Menzies, are all based on television comedies.

The battle for favourite hard-back book is being fought be-

tween the unlikely combatants of Delia Smith, with her collection of winter recipes (another television spin-off) and Andy McNab, whose *Special Air Service* memoirs are collected in *Immediate Action*.

To the humiliation of Neil Gallagher, the force behind the band Oasis, the top Christmas single is predicted to be a novelty version of his song *Wonderwall*, performed by the Mike Flowers Pops. The Mancunian band's own version of the tune was kept out of the top slot when it was released seven weeks ago by *I Believe*, a revamp of the 1950s standard performed, inevitably, by Robson and Jerome.

## Hospices launch scratchcard to counter Lottery

By ALEXANDRA FREAN  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE hospice movement is launching a scratchcard game with a top prize of £100,000. Help the Hospices, a charity representing the country's 208 hospices, hopes to raise £1 million by selling five million £1 cards to make up for a drop in donations due to the National Lottery.

Terry Taylor, chief executive of the charity, said it had to keep abreast of modern fundraising methods. "Anecdotal evidence suggests that some hospices have seen a drop of 20 per cent in donations since the launch of the National Lottery. We are constantly looking for innovative methods of fundraising."

The scratchcards will be launched in the new year. Mr Taylor said he hoped people



Top prize is £100,000

would be attracted because 20p in every £1 would go to charity. Only 5.6 per cent of the proceeds of cards sold by Camelot, organisers of the National Lottery, goes direct to the National Lotteries Charities Board.

In a typical year, Help the Hospices raises £1.25 million, which is distributed in grants to local and regional residential and outpatient units.

Lord Mancroft, whose Scratch 'n' Win scratchcard organisation is running the game for Help the Hospices, said that the launch would be

supported by an advertising campaign highlighting local and regional hospices. "Most public donations to hospices come from their local communities," he said. "You can't run hundreds of small lotteries for local hospices, so we are running it on a national basis to operate as a feeder into the small hospices."

The launch of the scratchcard, which will bear the charity's name and sunflower logo, comes amid continuing concerns about the effects the National Lottery has had on charitable donations. The National Council for Voluntary Organisations has estimated that individual charitable giving could decline by £300 million this year as a result of the National Lottery.

There are 142 voluntary hospice units in Britain plus 46 managed by the National Health Service and 20 run by the Marie Curie Cancer Care and Sue Ryder charities. Government funding averages 38 per cent of individual budgets, according to the Health Department, although some hospices get as little as 10 per cent.

Money also comes from fundraising, charity shops, tea rooms, legacies and covenants. Even NHS hospices are expected to find at least 10 per cent of their budgets from community sources.

## Dinosaur protected its eggs to the death

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

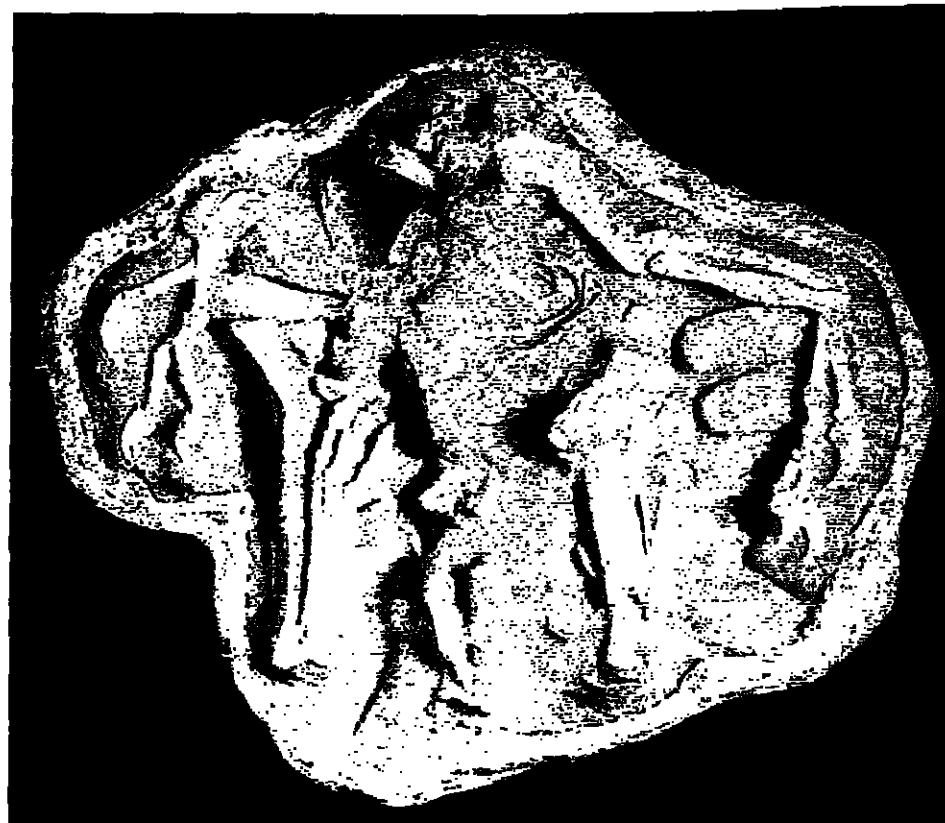
DINOSAURS were devoted parents that sat on their eggs as carefully as any modern bird, a find in Mongolia has shown.

A well-preserved skeleton of a dinosaur brooding on at least 15 carefully arranged eggs confirms the contention that dinosaurs took care of their young. It also suggests that dinosaurs were warm-blooded.

The find was made by an American and Mongolian team in the Gobi desert and is described in *Nature*. The fossil consists of an adult oviraptor, a species that flourished about 75 million years ago. Oviraptor was about six feet long from head to tail, and had a short head and long arms with three-fingered hands.

The species got its name from the belief that it lived on eggs stolen from other dinosaurs. But recent work, confirmed by this find, has indicated that the eggs often found with oviraptor are its own, not those of other species.

The new fossil is remarkable because the creature appears to have been frozen sitting on its eggs. The chances are that it was overwhelmed by a sandstorm, but died rather than leave the nest. The arms are held back as if protecting the nest while the



The fossilised oviraptor, which may have been caught in a sandstorm, appears to have been protecting its 7in-long eggs with outstretched three-fingered arms

hind legs are tightly folded. The eggs are arranged with their broad ends pointing inwards. Fifteen are visible, but the team, led by Dr Mark Norell from George Washington University in Washington DC, estimates that the total is probably 22. Each egg is about 7in long by 2½ wide.

Brooding is usually associated with warm-blooded animals, though a few cold-blooded ones, such as pythons, also brood.

The find, says the team, is the strongest evidence yet of bird-like brooding in non-avian dinosaurs.



THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM, LONDON

## Heather West laid to rest by family

Heather West, the daughter and final victim of Rosemary West, has finally been laid to rest at St Michael's parish church at Tintern, Gwent. Her brother Stephen, 21, and sisters Mac, 22, and Tara, 17, led the mourners, who included West's solicitor, Leo Goadley. Heather disappeared in 1987, aged 16.

The jurors who convicted West of ten murders have taken part in a counselling session at Winchester Crown Court, where the trial took place. It has been disclosed that West has appealed against her convictions.

## Life for rapist

A multiple rapist was given three life sentences at the Old Bailey. Judge Rogers told Paul Brandy, 34, that he was a very grave risk to the public. Brandy, who admitted raping three women in Bethnal Green, East London, had been deported from Canada after being jailed for sex attacks there. The court was told he was subsequently jailed for unlawful wounding after attacking his girlfriend.

## Golf row acquittal

Imran Hashmi was acquitted of possessing an imitation firearm and ammunition at the Old Bailey after an incident at Camberley Heath golf club, Surrey. The court was told there had been a row after a ball flew past Mr Hashmi's car. Four golfers smashed his car windows and hit him. He hid in his sister's home then, he said, produced a decommissioned handgun in self-defence.

## Bosnian patients

Three seriously ill Bosnian children have flown into England with their relatives for medical treatment. Amela Kurtovic, four, has shrapnel wounds that threaten the use of her leg. Meliha Muzilovic, 13, has a congenital heart condition, and Lejla Ahmetovic, 13, has cancer. The children's stay is being funded by Lions Club International and the World Memorial Fund.

## Guppy appeal

Darius Guppy, sentenced in 1993 to five years for a jewellery insurance fraud, will learn today if he has succeeded in his appeal against an additional three years for failing to repay the Lloyd's syndicate he swindled. Guppy lost an appeal against his five-year sentence in April, but fines were converted into compensation which he failed to pay within the required three months.

## Wife's plea

A wife has appealed for the public to help to find the killer of her husband, who had been leading a double life as a homosexual. Tony Davies, 40, was found stabbed to death on Pensarn beach, a gay haunt at Abergele, Cwyd, after failing to return to their home in Llysfaen. His wife Sheila, 37, said she had only known him as a loving husband and father to their two children.

## British scientists pinpoint second breast cancer gene

By NIGEL HAWKES

BRITISH scientists have isolated a second gene carried by families with a history of breast cancer. The gene, called BRCA2, is believed to be present in about a third of the 1,000 families in Britain who suffer cases of breast cancer in many female relatives.

It is also believed to be responsible for cases of the disease in men and probably accounts for 500 breast cancer cases in both sexes a year. Another gene, isolated last year and called BRCA1, is believed to be present in about half of the families suffering cancer, so the suggestion is that yet another gene mutation is responsible for the rest.

The isolation of BRCA1 and BRCA2 may help in the design of cancer drugs, gene therapy,

and improvements in screening to detect women at risk. The team had already concluded that BRCA2 must be on chromosome 13, and now reports in *Nature* that it has isolated the gene precisely and identified its misplaced letters in the genetic code.

The evidence is that BRCA1 is also involved in ovarian cancer, while BRCA2 may cause some of the rare but often fatal forms of the disease that kill nearly 100 British men every year. The team isolated the BRCA2 gene after studying data from 40 families around the world, with an average of four breast cancer cases per family before the age of 50.

It localised the gene to a stretch of DNA representing about one 500th of the total genome, then pinned it down precisely by sifting through each of the dozens of genes in this region for abnormalities.

The team, which was led by Dr Mike Stratton of the Institute of Cancer Research in Sutton, Surrey, involved researchers from Cambridge, the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Duke University in North Carolina, and took in data from Iceland, Holland, France and Canada.

Professor Gordon McVie, scientific director of the Cancer Research Campaign, said: "This is a well-deserved triumph for our people. They will go on to examine the function of the gene and explore the role of the gene in non-family breast cancers."

## Clean-up lifts heron population

By NICK NUTTALL

THE number of herons, a reliable indicator of the health of rivers and fish, have reached a record high. Ornithologists said yesterday that there were about 6,627 grey heron nests in England and Wales this year, up from about 4,000 in 1928 when records started.

The improvement is also linked with the recent run of mild winters, which make it easier for the birds to catch fish.

John Marchant, of the British Trust for Ornithology in



Heron: protected species

Thetford, Norfolk, said: "If ice covers the water, they can't get at the fish. They are big birds and will have the strength to move to another area. But if

the cold is bad that too will be frozen over."

The herons' worst period was the early 1960s when numbers slumped to just over 2,000 nests or breeding pairs. There has been a steady improvement since then as rivers and lakes have become cleaner: herons are also fully protected under wildlife laws.

The survey, carried out by volunteers for the trust, found that Northward Hill in north Kent had the most herons, with 189 nests. However, the Walthamstow Reservoir colony in northeast London has fallen from 138 to 116 nests.

## R & A welcomes upstart back to fold

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE Royal and Ancient, arbiter of all things golfing, is supporting the planned restoration of a disused links on the Isle of Wight that once challenged St Andrews as the rulemaker of the game.

Such was the calibre of membership of the Royal Isle of Wight Golf Club in the late 19th century, including the sons of Queen Victoria from nearby Osborne House, that the club felt able to make its own rules in defiance of the Scots.

As St Andrews is now the undisputed world headquarters of golfing law,

magnanimity reigns. Michael Bonallack, secretary of the R & A, has written to Barry Field, Tory MP for the Isle of Wight, that St Andrews would welcome the restoration and reopening of the island's once distinguished links which, since it closed in 1961, has become the exclusive province of dog-walkers.

Mr Field is negotiating with the National Trust, which owns the land, to have the course expanded to 18 holes and returned to sporting use. "No other golf course in the world could boast such a royal patronage, and few such a history. If this once fabulous course were re-

stored, I have no doubt it would be a major worldwide attraction as an important part in the history of the game and its development," Mr Field said yesterday.

Set by the sea at Bembridge, the course was opened in 1882 and was only the sixth links to be developed outside Scotland. At the time the R & A rule was that if you lost a ball, you lost the hole. The Royal Isle of Wight ruled that if you lost a ball, you could drop another and add two strokes. To the chagrin of St Andrews, but the relief of golfers everywhere, the English view for once prevailed.

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Party embarrassed by mix-up over 7pm division

# Tardy MPs cost Tories victory in fishing vote

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government was severely embarrassed last night when it emerged that it could have won the fisheries policy vote on Tuesday night but for two MPs who turned up late.

Tory sources claimed that Michael Spicer and Sir Michael Marshall thought that the critical vote was at 10pm rather than 7pm. When they arrived at the Commons to back the Government they found that the division had already taken place and Labour had won by two votes.

If the two Tories had voted, they would have produced a tie result. Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, would have followed tradition and cast her vote with the Government, giving the Tories a one-vote majority.

Yesterday Tory business managers were trying to conceal their frustration that two of their MPs had apparently mistaken the timing of the vote, despite a three-line whip having been applied. Many Commons votes are held at 10pm, but it is up to each MP to check the timing.

Friends of Mr Spicer, MP for Worcestershire, insisted that he had "made an arrangement" with the Whips' Office. Although he is a Euro-sceptic they emphasised that he was not deliberately abstaining and would have voted with the Government. Sir Michael



Michael Spicer and Sir Michael Marshall: both are thought to have mistaken the timing of the vote



Marshall, MP for Arundel, was unavailable for comment last night.

Four Labour MPs who also missed the vote face a dressing down in the new year from their Chief Whip, Donald Dewar. Senior Labour whips were said to be fuming after they spent days trying to track down the four: Brian Sedgemore, Michael Watson, Max Madden and Ian Davidson, who were all abroad. Two were contacted but failed to return.

Mr Dewar will call in the four individually next month, warning them that their action could have robbed Labour of a significant victory on the eve of the parliamentary recess.

Yesterday Mr Sedgemore, MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, who is on holiday

with his ex-wife and son in Barbados, dictated a letter of apology to Mr Dewar. He wrote that he had "no excuses" and would have delayed his flight if the significance of the fisheries vote had registered with him.

"My apologies to you and to all my colleagues who voted, including, and especially, those who were sick and did so at some risk to their health," he wrote.

"When Audrey, who is Barbadian, and with whose relations the two of us and Richard, our son, are spending Christmas, heard the result at 11pm British time and told me, I telephoned to check if there would be a vote of confidence. I was told not. In conclusion, I am shocked to have to write this letter. The

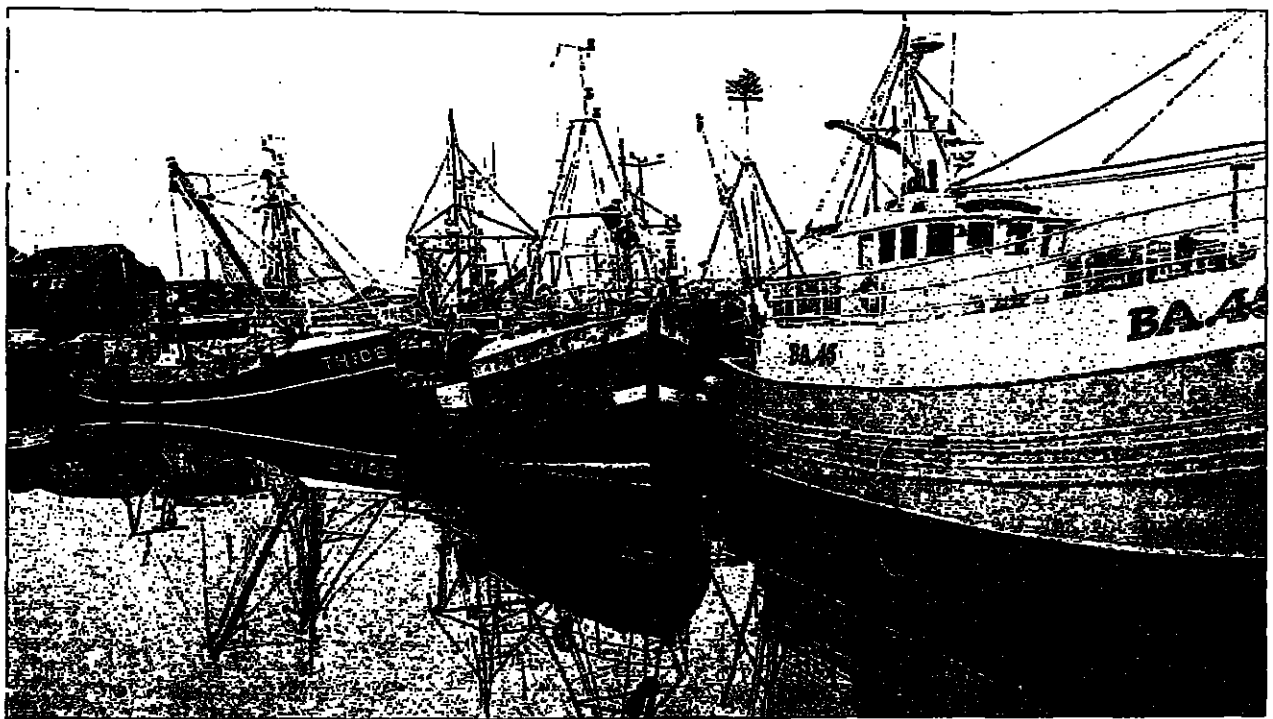
defeat of the Government is excellent news."

Mr Madden, MP for Bradford West, who is said to be in his holiday cottage on the west coast of Ireland, also spoke to Mr Dewar by telephone.

But the whips seem to be focusing their anger on Michael Watson and Ian Davidson. Mr Watson, MP for Glasgow Central, is rumoured to be in Barcelona. Mr Davidson, MP for Glasgow Govan, could be either in Spain or Sri Lanka. The whips have been unable to reach either of them for days.

Labour surprised many of its own MPs and the Tory whips by defeating the government 299 to 297 over a routine motion on the common fisheries policy. Two Tories, Bill Cash and Michael Carttiss, voted against the Government, and 11 Tories deliberately abstained. Seven of the nine Ulster Unionists also voted against John Major.

Tory business managers had predicted that more Labour MPs would be away but Mr Dewar and his team spent most of Monday and Tuesday recalling them. Two Labour MPs were "nodded through" because they were ill to walk. John Fraser, who arrived wearing a neckbrace after a bad car crash, and two other very sick MPs, insisted on voting personally.



Padstow in Cornwall, where many fishermen will be hit hard if proposed cuts in sole quotas are confirmed

## Baldry to fight for best quotas deal

By MICHAEL HORNSBY AND NICK NUTTALL

THE Fisheries Minister promised trawlermen yesterday that he would fight for the best deal possible in talks starting in Brussels today.

Tony Baldry said: "I will be as hard as I have always been. If anyone can identify an opportunity I have missed, I will gladly give up my role as Fisheries Minister." But he said that the industry must accept that catches had to be limited. "There are too many boats chasing too few fish. If we get the conservation measures wrong, we can see the very real prospect of a collapse of our fish stocks."

Negotiations are held every

December to fix the amount of fish that can be caught in European Union waters in the coming year. The proposals before ministers are based on scientific assessments of how much trawlers can take without endangering stock recovery. Once the total allowable catch has been agreed for each of 49 species, it will be divided between member states' fishing fleets according to a formula that gives Britain about 38 per cent by weight of all fish caught.

The European Commission has proposed heavy cuts, ranging up to 50 per cent, in catches of sole, plaice, her-

ring, mackerel and whiting. Mr Baldry said he wanted to get these cuts scaled down to avoid big fluctuations from year to year, which made it hard for fishermen to plan.

The proposed cuts in sole catches would be a heavy blow for many fishermen in Devon and Cornwall. This year the European Commission is proposing no cuts in had-

dock in the North Sea and is prepared to allow a 17 per cent rise in cod catches there. But permissible catches of both fish will remain at record low levels because of cuts in previous years.

Yesterday fishermen chal-

lenged the accuracy of the scientific assessments of fish stocks on which the quotas are based. Mike Townsend, of the Cornwall Fish Producers' Association, said that cod in the Channel and western waters was plentiful this year, yet only a slight increase in the North Sea quota was being proposed.

He said that trawlermen were frustrated at seeing good fishing grounds being underfished while others were overfished and harmed. They would like to swap their hake quota, giving stocks a chance to recover, for a bigger Channel cod quota.

## Ashby urged to step down and focus on paying debts

By JAMES LANDALE AND NICHOLAS WOOD

A SENIOR Tory official in David Ashby's constituency yesterday called on him to stand down after his libel case defeat.

John Kailofer, the Leicester North West vice-chairman, said that Mr Ashby should retire to concentrate on earning money to pay off his debts. The MP faces legal costs of £500,000 after the failure of his action against *The Sunday Times*, which branded him a lying, hypocritical homosexual.

"Because of his age and his health, I think he should stand down at the next election," Mr Kailofer said. "He is going to be 58 next time, he's got a heart condition and he's got to concentrate on earning more money. The best thing is to stand down and concentrate on the Bar. That is what I will tell him."

Mr Kailofer, who is also chairman of the local Conser-

vative Political Committee and vice-chairman of European constituency association, said that the executive committee of the association would bring forward its next meeting to discuss Mr Ashby's future. "We will be asking him what he wants to do and expressing our own view as well."

The pressure on Mr Ashby came as the Tory high command prepared to mount one of its secretive rescue operations to help him to meet his legal costs. Bankruptcy would force him out of the Commons, prompting a by-election that would almost certainly be won by Labour, further eroding the Government's tiny majority.

It is understood that Mr Ashby met Alastair Goodlad, the Chief Whip, for a chat and a whisky on Tuesday night and that the whips and Central Office are preparing to pass the hat around among wealthy MPs, peers and bene-

factors. Money to pay his legal costs would be offered as a gift or as a loan. No action has been taken yet and the timing will depend on whether Mr Ashby decides to appeal against the verdict and how swiftly *The Sunday Times* presses for its bill to be paid.

Although Mr Ashby's constituency is altered slightly by boundary changes, the move is not enough to force an entirely new selection process. Instead, the association is likely to open up the adoption process to outside contenders. Whoever becomes the candidate would struggle to win the seat which has a Tory majority of just 979 over Labour.

Mr Kailofer said that although Mr Ashby had been regarded as only an "adequate" MP, there was great sadness in the constituency. "I know him as a personal friend. I just don't know why he carried on with this case."

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## Bruinvels chosen to stand for new seat

By JAMES LANDALE

PETER BRUINVELS, the maverick former Tory MP who once volunteered to be a public hangman, has been selected to stand for The Wrekin at the next election.

Local Tories in the Shropshire constituency chose Mr Bruinvels, who lost his Leicester East seat in 1987, in preference to several present Tory MPs. Although The Wrekin is held by Labour, the seat has been altered by the Boundary Commission and will become Tory with a notional majority of more than 7,000 at the next election.

Mr Bruinvels, who is married with two daughters, is a supporter of capital punishment and was known to journalists as a "rent-a-quote" MP. He said in 1990: "I love the media and I know how to get things into the papers. My only ambition now is to get back into the House."

He had tried for several other seats including Stratford-on-Avon, Mid Sussex, Halesowen and Stourbridge, and Epping Forest. A Tory official in The Wrekin said: "He is a good catch. He knows his stuff."

### IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: backbench debates on the proposed international passenger station at Stratford, east London; schools in Broadstairs; the future of Knochill retractor; Scottish questions were followed by a debate on the Humber Bridge (Debate) Bill, all stages. In the Lords: debates on the increase in litigation and consequences for the professions; the case for a statutory limitation on cheque book journalism; and the Western European Time Bill. Both Houses adjourned for the Christmas recess and will not sit again until Tuesday, January 8.



# Rabin assassin put in solitary cell to foil a fatal attack

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

IN AN attempt to avert any more parallels with the assassination of President Kennedy, the self-confessed killer of Yitzhak Rabin has been placed in solitary confinement in an Israeli jail with 24-hour protection, including food-tasting to prevent poisoning.

One official, describing the decision to move Yigal Amir, a 25-year-old right-wing Jew, to the newly-prepared cell at the Ohalei Kider prison, near Beer Sheva, said: "We are doing our best to avoid a situation like that when [Kennedy's alleged killer] Lee Harvey Oswald was assassinated by Jack Ruby."

The eight-minute video broadcast on Tuesday night showed the incredible ease with which Mr Amir perpetrated his crime and boosted the belief of many Israelis that he was part of a complex plot involving members of the secret services. As a result, many believe an attempt might be made to silence him before his trial opens on January 23. He has threatened to disclose details about the killing that would "turn the country upside down".

Public anger over Mr Amir's attempt to sabotage the Middle East peace process has been exacerbated by his lack of repentance during his court appearances. One inmate of the Ohalei Kider prison told Israel television: "Someone will bash his head with a rod at some point."

The degree of hatred was demonstrated by Eitan Haber, Mr Rabin's former bureau

chief, who spurned attempts by Mr Amir's religious father, Shlomo, to make apologies at the opening of his trial on Tuesday. Later described by Mr Amir's mother, Geula, as "a monster", Mr Haber told Israel television that he would "pursue the Amir family for the rest of its days".

Mr Amir will eat all his meals in the new top-security cell where, under Israeli law, he could spend 30 to 40 years. The 15sq ft cell, which has a shower, toilet, television and radio, may only be opened with the permission of the prison authority. Moshe Malul, a spokesman for the authority, said that the assassin would be allowed to read books, subscribe to one newspaper and receive half-hour

visits from his family once a week.

Nearly 50 per cent of Israelis watched Tuesday night's televising of the amateur video, which showed the failure of security guards or police to prevent Mr Amir's attack on the former Prime Minister. "Stunned nation watches a nightmare", reported yesterday's *Jerusalem Post*, the Hebrew newspaper, disclosed that one of those glued to the screen was Shimon Peres, Mr Rabin's successor. He was also a potential target until he became separated from Mr Rabin at the end of the peace rally on November 4.

Conspiracy theories increased yesterday with a *Yediot Achronot* report that two of Mr Rabin's bodyguards told the police that someone shouted "it is not real" when the bullets were fired. At first, the shout was thought to have come from Mr Amir, but there is growing speculation that it was uttered by a security official who may have been part of a plot to let Mr Amir open fire with "blanks", which were later switched.

Mr Rabin's widow, Leah, has repeatedly questioned why security men told her that the two dum-dum bullets which killed her husband were blanks. Until a convincing answer is given, the evidence in the video of the lack of concern for Mr Rabin's protection will fuel speculation that the inaction resulted from a conviction that real ammunition was not being used.

## Israel bars US rabbi

Jerusalem: Israel yesterday barred entry to seven Americans Jews considered a security risk. They included Rabbi Abraham Hecht, 73, who earlier this year gave religious justification for killing Yitzhak Rabin in a letter days before his assassination on November 4. The Interior Ministry said the six others had been linked to illegal activities in Israel, backed extremist groups, or were active in the Jewish Defence League. (Reuters)

## Mubarak death plot thwarted

BY OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

EGYPTIAN security forces have foiled an Islamic plot to assassinate President Mubarak and take over the Government. The plot was described as the most dangerous in the country since the killing of President Sadat by Muslim fanatics in 1981.

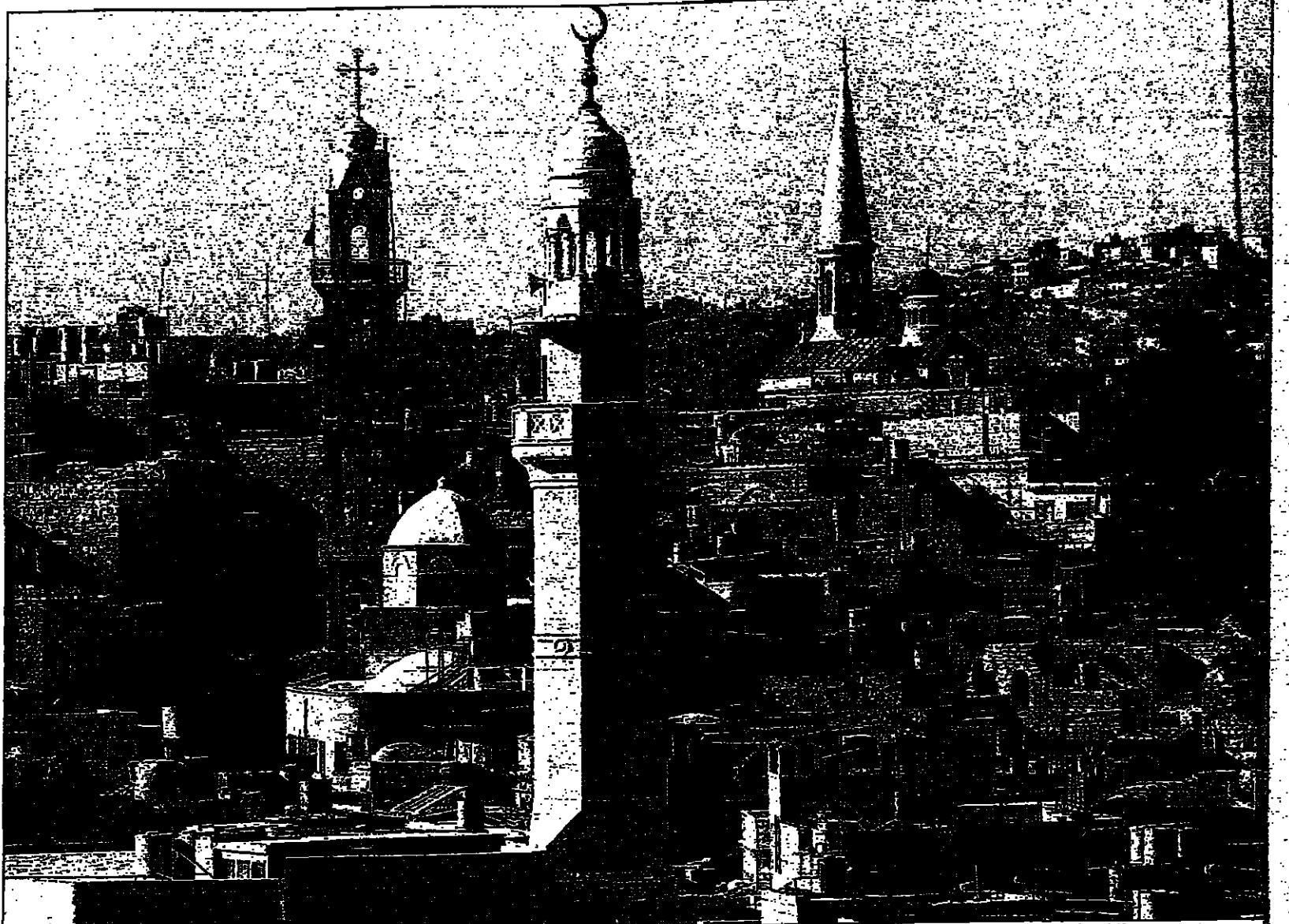
Coming less than two

months after the murder of Yitzhak Rabin in Israel by a right-wing Jewish militant and only six months after the Egyptian leader narrowly escaped an ambush in Addis Ababa, the latest Cairo coup attempt was described by Western officials as a reminder of the potential for instability in the Middle East.

An Egyptian Interior Ministry official last night con-

firmed a report in a leading Cairo opposition paper, *al-Ahali*, that the latest attack was planned by Islamic Jihad, the group which assassinated Mr Sadat.

Egyptian security forces, on alert after the election clampdown on the illegal Muslim Brotherhood, arrested 56 suspected extremists, including five Sudanese and one Egyptian.



A church spire vies for attention among the towering minarets of Bethlehem, which had five mosques in 1970 but now has more than 70

## Muezzin's call dominates Nativity town

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN BETHLEHEM

BETHLEHEM, revered by tens of millions around the world as the birthplace of Jesus, has lost most of its Christian character and today has a 40,000-strong population of whom more than two-thirds are Muslims.

So far-reaching has been the change which began soon after the foundation of the State of Israel in 1948 and is considered irreversible that Greater Bethlehem, which had only five mosques in 1970, now has more than 70. The sound of the muezzin calling the faithful to prayer five times a day is a more common sound here than church bells, even around Manger Square, site of the 4th-century Church of the Nativity.

Although the exodus of the Palestinian Christians is not a subject that many residents are happy to discuss on the eve of televised Christmas celebrations, officials are pre-

pared to talk privately of intimidation, land deals reserved only for Islamic buyers and Christian women in Western-style clothes being pelted with eggs by fundamentalist youths. Crosses and graves have been desecrated.

"The transformation began when Arabs fled here from the formation of the Jewish State and two large Muslim-dominated refugee camps were established," said Jawad Mana, a leading Bethlehem journalist and a Muslim. "The demographic move was accelerated by emigration and the higher Muslim birth rate." Elham Sameh, one of 500 Protestants who will gather in the YMCA at Shepherds' Fields on Christmas Eve to sing carols at a service, said: "We Christians are getting less and less. We are now only about 2 per cent

of the Arab population of the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. You will find more Bethlehem Christians living in South America than in Bethlehem."

This year the drastically shrinking presence of Christians in the town described proudly by Elias Freij, its

control after 23 years of military rule.

"For us Muslims, Christmas in Bethlehem is a national Palestinian festival rather than a religious one," said Musa Darwish, the Muslim spokesman of Bethlehem's Vatican-sponsored university where 68 per cent of the 2,100 students are Muslims. "After all, as far as we are concerned, Jesus was a Palestinian."

The hilltop university, founded in 1973 to provide a way for Christian students to obtain a higher education without going abroad, is symbolic of the Islamisation of the town where until 1949-1950 the Christians were the dominant majority.

In the courtyard of the walled campus daubed with Islamic slogans, crude cartoons lampooning Yitzhak Rabin, the assassinated Israel

Prime Minister, and photographs of gun-toting Islamic terrorists take pride of place on a notice board provided by the university authorities. Many of the women students wear the white Islamic head covering that is becoming more popular throughout the Arab world.

"Because of the fundamentalists, many Bethlehem Christians have started to give their children Arabic names such as Walid, Omar or Tariq," Mr Darwish said.

For the purists, as the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, once said on a visit to the Holy Land, there is a danger that, by the first decade of the new millennium, Jerusalem and Bethlehem, once centres of a strong Christian presence, might become a kind of Walt Disney Christian theme park with the churches just serving as museums for tourists.

## As far as we Muslims are concerned, Jesus was a Palestinian

Greek Orthodox Mayor, as "the spiritual capital of the Christian world" is symbolised by the giant portrait of Yassir Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, dominating Manger Square in anticipation of his arrival to mark the city's transfer from Israeli to Arab

## UN deadline for Western Sahara

FROM MARK HUBAND IN RABAT

THE United Nations has threatened to withdraw its peacekeeping troops from the disputed Western Sahara if Morocco and its rival claimant, the Algerian-backed Polisario Front, fail to agree on a referendum to decide its

future. A UN Security Council vote on Tuesday night saw unanimous approval for the holding of the referendum either to bring independence to the mineral-rich territory or see it united with Morocco.

However, Security Council members said that if agreement were not reached before the UN mandate in the territory expires on January 31, the 400-strong peacekeeping force could be withdrawn.

Morocco and the Polisario Front, which has fought for independence since Spanish rule ended in 1975, remained silent after the Security Council meeting, which followed three weeks of fruitless talks at the UN.

## Teenage 'mafiosi' arrested

Bari: Police in southern Italy said yesterday that they had arrested four teenagers, two of them aged 14, for running a Mafia clan. All four were suspected of the attempted murder of another minor, extortion, theft and illegal arms possession. Police said the boys were believed to have established a junior version of the Mafia with initiation rites and a blood pact to seal their secret life of crime. A sawn-off shotgun, starting pistol and toy gun were confiscated from the gang's hideout. (Reuters)

## Yemen demands captives' release

Sanaa: President Saleh of Yemen said that Eritrea must free 200 captured Yemeni soldiers and leave a disputed island that it seized on Monday before his country could begin talks.

An official dismissed reports that Yemen had ordered military mobilisation to retake the Greater Hamish island and confirmed a three-day ceasefire was holding after the flare-up in the Red Sea. (Reuters)

## Governor of Barbados dies

Bridgetown, Barbados: Nita Barrow, 79, the first woman Governor-General of Barbados, died on Tuesday at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Bridgetown after collapsing at a Christmas party on Monday night. The cause of death was not revealed. A public health expert, Dame Nita was appointed the Queen's representative in 1990. (AP)

## Tribal Barbie

Nairobi: Kenyan toy shops are doing a brisk Christmas trade in a Malaysian-made Masai Barbie Doll, Africa's first black version, which has traditional dress, including a shawl and anklets. (Reuters)

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'So much blood has been shed. Now we see these Nato forces coming. I think this war is over'

## British troops put the smile back on face of Bosnia

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN KRUPA NA VRBASU, WESTERN BOSNIA

THERE have been so many false hopes before but yesterday seemed so different — it felt like the end of the Bosnian war.

While the sun dipped towards the mountain horizon, easing the valley in cold shadow, the inhabitants of Krupa, a Serb-held town 17 miles south of Banja Luka, gathered by the roadside to watch the British troops arrive.

As the men and crumpled armour spearheaded the British crossing of the front lines only two miles away near the snow-laden high street, the Serbs smiled. One man, wearing a camouflage jacket, runs forward with a bottle of brandy which he begins handing to the troops.

"I cannot easily put this day into words," the Serb says. "Every side has lost so much. So much blood has been shed. At last, now we see these Nato troops coming. I can allow myself to think this war may be over."

With newly raised Union

acks snapping brusquely

above columns of Scimitar

fighting vehicles, the men of B

squadron The Light Dra-

goons, backed by a Warrior

mounted platoon of soldiers

from The Light Infantry, had

hours before ploughed north-

westwards through the snow-

capped Bosnian wasteland, spilling along and across the confrontation lines from their bases in the centre of the state within hours of their "D-Day" reversion to Nato command.

Thousands of other troops from the British brigade, so far the only composite unit intact of the planned multinational division, with the task of implementing the Dayton peace accord in south-western Bosnia, were involved in the operation, codenamed Operation Resolute Rat.

The Second Battalion The Light Infantry moved westwards from Vitez to take up position in Mrkonje Grad as a prelude to a move further west to Sanski Most, while men from the First Battalion the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers deployed from Bugojno to secure the crossing point for The Light Dragoons. These troops were in turn supported by Royal Engineers, Signalers, airborne artillery and helicopters.

Passing through Muslim, Catholic and then Serb Orthodox zones, the movement of these troops has no precedent among the many attempts at creating peace in the war-torn state. Never before have regular units in such numbers or carrying so much firepower been given such access. The reaction of all three elements

seemed to be one of relief, and instead of opposition, the forces met only varying degrees of co-operation from the indigenous forces.

"We have a clear aim," said Major-General Mike Jackson, commander of the British-dominated multinational division, "which is to bring three years of wretched war to an end. If necessary, we are prepared to implement the agreement using force."

He spoke from the roadside near Banja Luka, south of the confrontation line between Croat and Serb forces, where the Squadron of Light Dragoons formed up in a holding area before their final move across the front. Behind these soldiers helicopters wheeled in the sky. Sea Kings dropped portable 105mm howitzers to gun positions placed to support the advance of the Dragoons, while Lynx helicopters flew protectively above.

By 2pm though, the lead Scimitar passed through a narrow gorge and crossed the front. Onlooking Serb soldiers laughed with British Fusiliers securing the point, appearing happy to see the Nato force.

"After so many years of bloodshed in Bosnia it's a good thing to finish this war," said Captain Branko Zeljkovic, of the Bosnian Serb Army. "We're going to give the British our maximum co-operation in order to fulfil the joint goal for peace. I hope it's a permanent end."

As the light faded the British reinforced their presence in the town, and the brandy toast continued its rounds between the Serbs and British troops.

I took a helicopter back to central Bosnia. Below us must collect in the white valleys, dimming the vision of the Nato movement westwards. Beneath the doorgunner's gun barrel, lights began to glimmer from homesteads among the mountains. They appeared as if a farewell to Bosnia's war.

Leading article, page 19



Azra Petrovic, a Muslim, is kissed by her daughter Maja, seven, in Tuzla yesterday after three years apart

## Light Dragoons set the 'no nonsense' mood

By MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

NATO began its first peacekeeping mission yesterday and immediately demonstrated a style and forcefulness which was denied — by Security Council mandate — to the United Nations troops who were first sent to Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1992.

Throughout the first two and a half years of the UN operation, the peacekeeping and humanitarian mission was thwarted at every turn in the road by Kalashnikov-wielding militia, often drunk, who treated the UN soldiers with contempt. Even British soldiers with long experience of Northern Ireland were forced at gunpoint on occasions to hand over their weapons and their vehicles and

to suffer the humiliation of being sent packing by abusive warlords.

In the build-up to the launching of Operation Joint Endeavour, the peace implementation mission which began yesterday, Nato commanders have made much of the fact that the arrival of alliance-led troops in Bosnia would register a "step change" in the approach towards the "former" warring factions. The troops would act robustly and would stand no nonsense if obstructed at checkpoints.

Yesterday British soldiers under the new Nato command demonstrated this new style when 'B' Squadron of the Light Dragoons advanced in armoured vehicles across a former front line in Bosnia.

Two hours after the UN formally handed over responsibility for keep-

ing the peace in Bosnia to Nato, the 100 British soldiers swept past Serb checkpoints to set up camp at Krupa in western Bosnia, a village about 18 miles south of the Serb stronghold of Banja Luka. Although this demonstration of will is bound to set the tone for the months ahead, it would be unfair for Nato to claim that the arrival of alliance musclepower has totally changed Bosnia's military landscape.

The biggest change took place nearly four months ago when the UN, combined with Nato airpower, took on the Serbs and struck a blow of such ferocity that the Serb leadership in Pale was forced to realise that another winter of warfare would be disastrous, both militarily and politically.

The fact that the UN — or more accurately Lieutenant-General Rupert

Smith, the UN commander in Bosnia — "bit the bullet" and demanded wholesale bombing of Serb military targets, has made Nato's job today much easier. There is little likelihood of Bosnia becoming another Vietnam or Beirut, as so many commentators have claimed. The political environment is different and, provided the 20,000 US troops in Bosnia retain a sense of impartiality, there is no reason why the 60,000-man, Nato-led force should not complete its mission within the 12-month timetable.

Thanks to General Smith's determination to change the balance of power between the UN peacekeepers and the Serbs, the alliance has a better chance of succeeding, and developing a peace enforcement strategy that will be a marker for future operations.



Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Walker, left, and General Bernard Janvier at yesterday's ceremony

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'A white showed respect, I never thought it possible'

# Neo-Nazi town warms to black Communist Mayor

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN VENTERSDORP

WHEN Meshack Mbambalala was selected to be the first black Mayor of Ventersdorp, the prospect filled him with trepidation. This was hardly surprising, given that he had just replaced one of South Africa's most noted bigots as the top man in the Western Transvaal town.

Even a year ago the idea that an unemployed Communist living in a rickety tin shack who washes in a bucket, reads by candlelight and listens to Bob Marley could become Mayor of a town synonymous with Eugene Terre'Blanche and his neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) was almost unimaginable. Mr Mbambalala is the first to admit that he does not always feel comfortable, but less than two months after he slipped on the red gown for the first time his worst fears have proved ill-founded.

Mr Mbambalala slumps back into a ragged armchair in his dank, ill-lit shack and recalls, with a smile brighter than his gold mayoral chain, that a group of whites were among the first to congratulate him on his victory. At the municipal buildings, ten minutes' walk from his township home, he says the Afrikaner staff have treated him as an

equal. "On the first day, when my white secretary called me 'sir' and offered me tea, I felt like crying," he said. "We were brought up thinking blacks were inferior and this was the first time a white had shown me respect. I never thought it was possible."

The same might be said for the metamorphosis taking place in Ventersdorp. Not only are blacks no longer subjected to abuse but these days they can be seen drinking alongside whites at the town's only

hotel. Whites recently ventured to the *shebeen* (illegal drinking den) in nearby Tshing township.

Mr Mbambalala is determined to build on the spirit of goodwill and speaks passionately about developing multi-racial sports teams. His confidence has been boosted by what he sees as the ability of the new council, with five African National Congress and four right-wing Conservative Party (CP) members, to work together. "We must leave our politics outside the doors before we enter the council chamber," he said at their first meeting.

His conciliation efforts appear to be hitting the mark. Pierre Terre'Blanche, a CP councillor, says he was initially opposed to black rule but now is determined to work with his black colleagues, and the prominently displayed picture of President Mandela on his office wall speaks volumes. "We cannot go on fighting, but we will need time to let the water run over the rocks," he said.

Of course, it would be foolish to think that sweetness and light have descended on Ventersdorp overnight. From the off-limits in the town, where separate service areas for blacks and whites have

been retained, to the death threats and smear campaign against the new Mayor, there are plenty of reminders of apartheid.

"This is a bizarre democracy where literates are being ruled over by the illiterates," Fred Rundle, an AWB spokesman, said. "You always get a couple of weirdos who want to be accepted by the new South Africa. You see them in the shops walking around with a token little black, but they are fooling no one."

However, even in Ventersdorp it is the AWB that seems out of place. It recently moved its headquarters to a quiet side street, and where once journalists were chased from the premises at gunpoint they are now welcome. Across the country the AWB's antics are the butt of jokes and a Johannesburg radio station recently voted the once feared Eugene Terre'Blanche as their candidate for Father Christmas.

"We are tired of trouble-makers in this town," said Martin Girmbeck, owner of the Ventersdorp Hotel. "Our doors are open to all as long as they behave themselves. We are determined that this is going to be the first truly black and white Christmas that Ventersdorp has known."



Terre'Blanche: dubbed a Father Christmas



Meshack Mbambalala, first black Mayor of Ventersdorp, outside his home in the Western Transvaal town



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## Cape chief to go head hunting in Scotland

BY INIGO GILMORE

A SOUTH AFRICAN chief will travel to Scotland next month in an attempt to retrieve the head of the Xhosa king, Hintsa, which he says was cut off and removed by British soldiers 167 years ago.

Chief Nicholas Gcaleka, a traditional healer who claims direct descent from King Hintsa Kaphalo of the Amagcaleka and Amaraarabe tribes, says his ancestors have instructed him to fetch the king's head from Scotland. He says he spent 30 days under the sea with his father — who he says is still alive — where he was told the precise location of the head in Scotland, but is sworn to secrecy.

Chief Gcaleka, who is supported by more than 30 South African companies, says the head must be brought back and reburied with the rest of the body to bring peace to South Africa and to stamp out corruption. His ancestors have given him until the end of January for the task.

The chief, who lives near Port Elizabeth, has received moral support from President Mandela, Alfred Nzo, the Foreign Minister, and the provincial government. The trip's cost, estimated at 50,000 rands (£10,000), has been inflated because he will be accompanied by six traditional healers and an advocate from the Department of Foreign Affairs.

According to the British High Commission in Cape Town, records indicate that the king was killed by a renegade British soldier who sliced off the ears and was punished. But a commission spokesman insisted there was no evidence King Hintsa's head had been cut off.

## Carjacker gangs sow fear in Kenya

FROM REUTER IN NAIROBI

EXPATRIATES in Kenya are selling their Land-Rovers, Discoveries and other four-wheel drive vehicles to escape being caught in a pre-Christmas crime wave that is scaring off foreign investors.

Shocked by the plague of frequently violent carjackings and robberies, police have detained more than 3,000 suspects this month, partly in an effort to stem an influx of weapons.

"For the criminals, carjacking is a low-risk, high-return enterprise. You stop the car and take it. Breaking into a guarded home to steal a television, by comparison, is high-risk and low-return," said a Western security officer in Nairobi. Carjacking, he added, was a well-organised "industry" with the bulk of expensive cars taken in Kenya smuggled into Tanzania and from there to Southern and West Africa. But the gangs, who once gave their victims a taxi fare home, now shoot first, he added.

The crime wave since September has embarrassed the Government, with attacks on diplomats from Britain, Pakistan, India, Argentina, and Malawi. "Some foreign companies are having great difficulty in persuading expatriates to serve here," said a Western diplomat. "Some embassies have requested armed guards, but unless you have an armed guard in every car and one stationed every 50 yards, you are not going to prevent all carjackings."

United Nations officials said some candidates had recently refused to accept posts in Kenya because of worries about security.

## Call for Abacha dialogue

London: A panel of Commonwealth foreign ministers agreed yesterday to send a mission to Nigeria to pursue a dialogue with the military regime of General Sani Abacha.

The ministers said there had been no effort by Nigeria to engage pro-democracy groups in a genuine dialogue and issued a warning that sanctions could be considered if the regime proved inflexible. The ministers requested a study of measures that could

be used to persuade Nigeria to accelerate the return to democracy, a statement after the ministers' meeting said. Such moves could include a freeze on financial assets held overseas by members of the Nigerian Government, the prevention of new investment, and partial trade embargoes.

Nigeria was suspended from the Commonwealth last month after it executed Ken Saro-Wiwa, the writer, and eight fellow Ogoni minority activists. (Reuters)

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# Republicans spurn Clinton climbdown over Whitewater

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Senate's chief Whitewater investigator rebuffed eleven-hour White House efforts to forestall last night's scheduled Senate vote on a court order to obtain subpoenaed presidential documents.

Striving to avoid a constitutional clash embarrassingly redolent of Watergate in an election year, President Clinton's advisers yesterday reduced their five original conditions for surrendering the documents to one, but Alfonse D'Amato, Republican chairman of the Senate Whitewater committee, insisted that the documents be surrendered unconditionally.

The New York senator said the committee had sought the

subpoenaed documents since August and encountered nothing but "obfuscation and delay". He likened the Clinton White House to Richard Nixon's during Watergate, saying: "We have the same patterns of deception, of deceit, of faulty memories, of the destruction of records or missing records, of testimony from people that is just not credible, and it smells more and more like a cover-up."

The documents are notes taken by William Kennedy, a former member of the White House counsel's office, of a meeting in November 1993 between Mr Clinton's lawyers and aides. The White House says the meeting was merely

to brief David Kendall, Mr Clinton's new personal lawyer, on the Whitewater affair. But Republicans suspect the participants discussed ways to thwart two supposedly independent criminal investigations in which the Clintons' names had surfaced and about which the White House had improperly received inside information.

Soon before the start of yesterday's Senate debate, the White House told Mr D'Amato he could have the documents if his committee and all other Whitewater investigators agreed that Mr Clinton was not waiving his right to confidential discussions with his lawyers. The White House was clearly concerned that surrendering the documents would set a precedent enabling investigators to obtain records of all Mr Clinton's private Whitewater discussions.

Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater special prosecutor, agreed to that condition but Jim Leach, the Republican congressman leading the House Whitewater investigation, rejected it while the views of two federal agencies conducting Whitewater investigations were unclear.

Mr Leach accused the White House of a "consistent pattern of obfuscation and delay". Mr D'Amato said the President's claim of lawyer-client privilege was in this instance "very, very doubtful". Democrats accused the Republicans of rejecting a perfectly reasonable White House offer for blatant partisan reasons.

The Senate committee last week voted 10-8 along party lines to seek a court order enforcing its subpoena. The full Senate, which the Republicans control by 53 seats to 46, was expected to endorse that vote last night, triggering a constitutional confrontation between Congress and the White House that could well reach the Supreme Court.



Julia Roberts picks and Richard Gere pays in one of a string of Rodeo Drive boutiques in *Pretty Woman*

## Hard-pressed shop owners prepare to go down and out in Beverly Hills

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN BEVERLY HILLS

ALONE with his mannequins, Richard Vincent is enduring the worst Christmas week he can remember in a decade on Rodeo Drive. "It's been terrible," he says. "Everyone I've talked to has been crying the blues." His collection of designer suits in scarlet and black tell the same story. They all bear marked-down prices.

Two blocks up the shopping street that calls itself the most elegant in the world, another boutique is selling its stock cheaply and closing down after 17 years as a Beverly Hills landmark. Across the way, there is a "sale" sign in the window of Yves Saint Laurent. Outside, in the kerbside parking spaces for the very rich, there is not a single Ferrari.

Rodeo Drive is the heart of Beverly Hills and the engine of what claims to be one of the most lucrative shopping dis-

tricts in America. However, behind the Christmas lights and marble facades it is urgently reinventing itself to avoid being eclipsed by California's mega-malls. The street where Julia Roberts learnt to shop in *Pretty Woman* is "a nice, friendly, refreshing alternative to the crowded malls", says a spokeswoman for the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce, which has proposed enhancements such as wider pavements and more trees.

In fact, the most intimate street in the neighbourhood has four lanes of traffic. Pavement cafes are practically non-existent and stagnant business has made pre-Christmas sales the norm. On the nearby Wilshire Boulevard, there are vacant shops half a block long. Even Beverly Hills Psychic has shut down.

In a city that once prided itself on exclusivity, the most

publicised recent opening was of a branch of Planet Hollywood, the new chain thriving on sales of film souvenirs and cheeseburgers. A training shoe superstore is about to open next door.

"This was the place to be seen," says Ruth Levine, 72, an administrator at Ted Lapidus which will close in the New Year. "It isn't any more. People are going to the big new malls in Santa Monica and Newport Beach."

Bloomington's, the up-market New York department store, had been considering opening its first West Coast branch in Beverly Hills a block from Rodeo Drive. The company has since reconsidered. Newport Beach and Costa Mesa, both in Orange County, are now the top contenders.

In Manhattan, there is scarcely a vacant hotel room this week. However, in Bever-

ly Hills all four leading hotels had rooms available at an hour's notice on Tuesday night. The Peninsula, where Hugh Grant and Elizabeth Hurley have been known to stay, was offering a special \$250-a-night (£162) rate.

Rodeo Drive naturally has its pockets of ironclad prosperity. Business is still "very good" throughout the year at Harry Winston, the jeweller best known for lending multi-million-dollar baubles to the stars on Oscar night. The manager picks out a \$2 million, 27.5 carat teardrop diamond ring for which he hopes to find a buyer soon.

Mr Vincent has a simple theory to account for his blighted Christmas. "Most of my customers are still millionaires, but their bills are rising faster than their incomes. It's not how much you make that counts. It's how much you owe."

## Protests halt US exhibition on slavery

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

FOR the second time in less than a month, the Library of Congress, a Washington institution priding itself on originality, has cancelled an exhibition after a welter of complaints.

"Back of the Big House: The Cultural Landscape of the Plantation", a collection of photographs and biographical accounts by former slaves, was dismantled the day before its opening after black members of staff said that it offended their heritage.

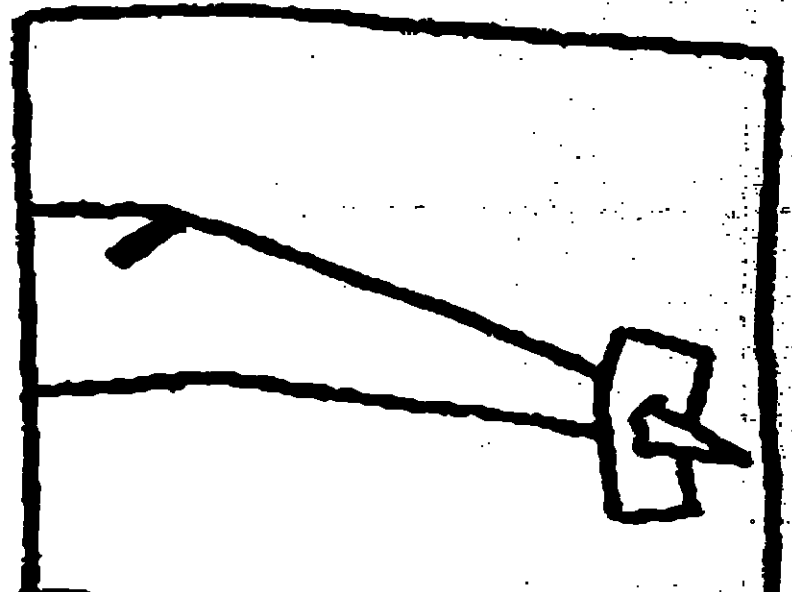
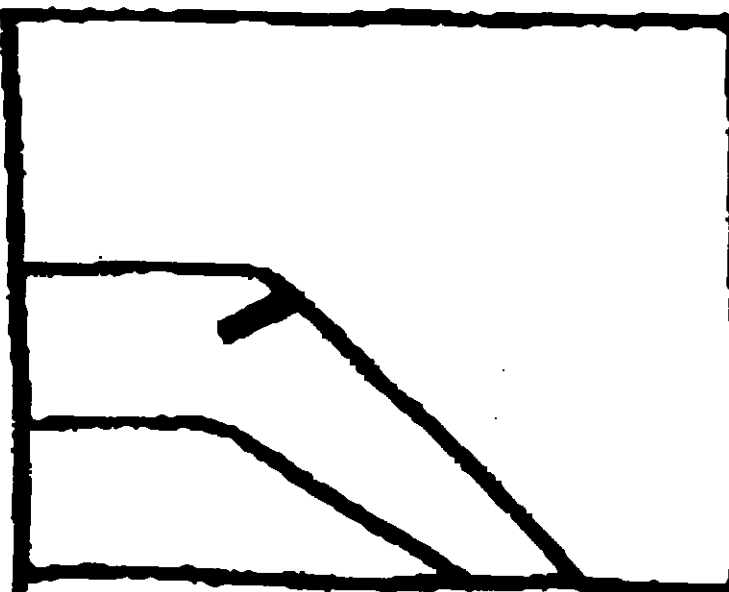
The decision was made only weeks after the library was forced to postpone a retrospective of Sigmund Freud when angry American academics and feminists said that the father of psychoanalysis was a discredited hack.

Reasons for the latest cancellation remained unclear yesterday to John Vlach, a George Washington University professor and curator of the exhibition, who said it had been shown without incident at five university museums and historic houses, including black institutions.

"I can see that some people would look at pictures of slave quarters and it might be that they are sensitive to that," he said. "But the exhibit is an exercise in recovering the stories and pictures of these people with their actual words. It lets the makers of history speak for themselves."

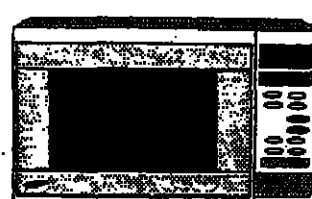
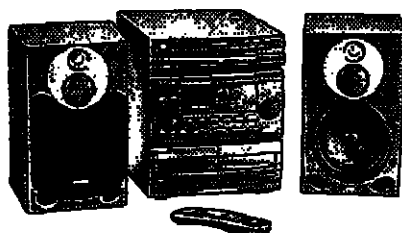
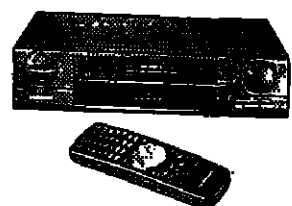
About 20 black library employees are said to have complained that the show lacked any historical context and its title evoked a long-standing dispute with the library. A 1982 class-action suit alleging employment discrimination has been settled for about \$8 million (£5.2 million), but 2,000 affected staff have yet to receive their money.

Mr Vlach only learnt of the decision to withdraw the exhibition when he arrived at the library to check the final installation of the display. "I was shocked to find a ghost town," he said. "The walls were totally decuded."



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## Juppé will woo unions with job promises

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

ALAIN JUPPÉ, the French Prime Minister, will today host a high-profile labour summit designed to find ways of reviving an economy battered by the three-week general strike.

After the country's worst social crisis for almost 30 years, M Juppé knows that the meeting represents a gamble that could end in disaster. With trade unions and employers bickering over the agenda, economists arguing that France could slip into recession, and the public-sector strike still lingering on in some areas, the Prime Minister has a difficult task and little room for manoeuvre.

Not only must he restore consumer confidence, shaken by the conflict, but also do so without hampering the drive to reduce public deficits that has become his central policy. Yesterday the difficulties were highlighted by President Chirac, who said, in an implicit criticism of his Prime Minister, that the Government should make new efforts to "bring back hope".

Announced by M Juppé at the height of the turmoil ten days ago, the summit is designed to relaunch economic growth, promote youth employment and explore whether a cut in the working week

could act as an incentive to job creation.

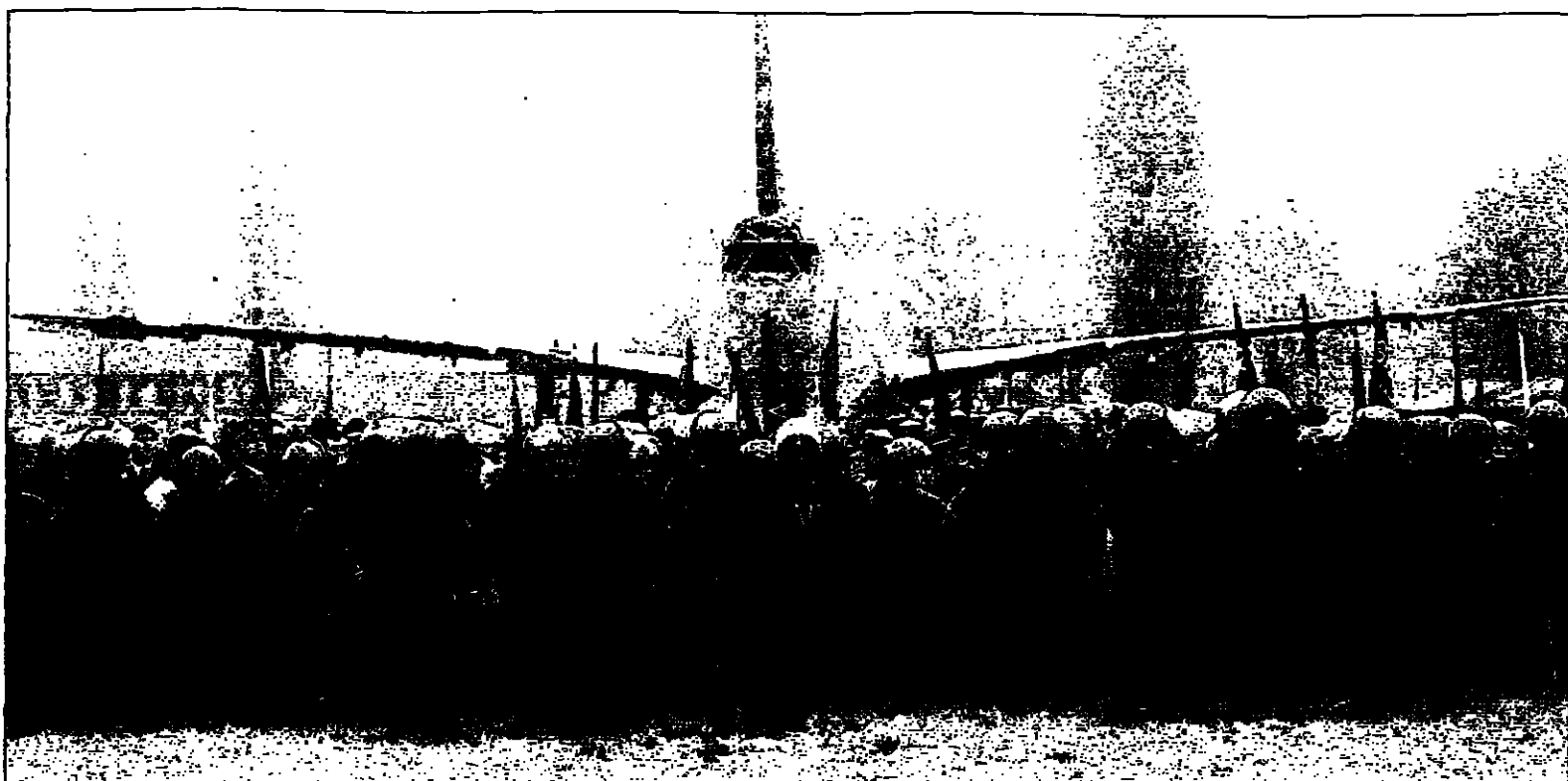
Two of France's three biggest unions also want to discuss the welfare reforms that were at the heart of the strike. Although the Government made significant concessions, abandoning plans to revise public-sector pensions, union leaders want M Juppé to scrap his entire social security programme, something that he refuses to do.

The CNPF, French equivalent of the Confederation of British Industry, is also unhappy. Jean Gandois, the organisation's president, said he would attend the summit but would refuse to talk about salaries or a reduction in working hours. "We are not going with empty hands but with blood everywhere, that of companies who have had a catastrophic November and December," he said. "We are not Father Christmas."

If today's meeting breaks up in acrimony, M Juppé's already fragile position could become even more precarious. His problems have been fuelled by surveys indicating a slowdown in the economy even before the strike. With the French becoming increasingly wary, they have placed large sums in their savings accounts since the summer, hitting retail sales and sparking talk of a recession.

Amid the gloom there were a few straws for the Prime Minister to clutch at. After a conflict unlike anything witnessed in France since 1968, the parties present at today's summit are under pressure to preserve at least a semblance of national unity. M Juppé might also draw comfort from opinion polls showing that the slump in his popularity appears to have bottomed out. He and M Chirac have registered small increases in their ratings, largely a result of right-wing voters backing them for the first time since July.

William Rees-Mogg, page 18



Police in Brussels round up 1,000 striking employees of Sabena, the Belgian national airline, during the

second day of a transport dispute yesterday. All flights were cancelled. A crowd of 2,000 protesters threw

stones, eggs and firecrackers and the doors of a new terminal were broken as police stopped demonstrators

from entering. The employees are protesting about planned cuts in government spending. (Reuters)

## Pravda hopes for return to past glory

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

AFTER four years exiled to the media wilderness, *Pravda*, the once mighty organ of the Soviet Communist Party, is preparing to stage a dramatic comeback on Russia's news stands.

Buoyed by the success of the Communist Party's victory in this week's parliamentary elections, the daily newspaper, which has been haemorrhaging readers and recently faced financial ruin, believes it has a bright future as the flagship for the Communist renaissance.

"We do not support one political party any more, but we were naturally pleased with the Communist victory and we will be backing a left-wing candidate for the presidency," said Aleksandr Ilyin, *Pravda's* editor-in-chief.

Certainly the newspaper, founded by Lenin in 1912 and at one time printed in 44 cities nationwide, could use the boost. Although *Pravda* once boasted more than 11 million readers, today in the competitive world of Russian newspaper publishing its readership is just over 170,000.

By some estimates the paper is lucky to be alive. After it backed the failed hardline

coup against Mikhail Gorbachev in August 1991 its influence evaporated and it was nearly closed down for good by President Yeltsin's reformist Government. Since then it has suffered financial problems, an industrial dispute and a controversial takeover bid by a Yannis Giannikos, a Greek publishing tycoon.

Although most Russian newspapers and journalists fear that a Communist comeback could mean the return of Soviet-era censorship, the

prospect has not unsettled the reporters at *Pravda*, where a large statue of Lenin still dominates the entrance.

"People talk so much about freedom of the press today, and yet every newspaper in Russia is controlled by a politician or a banker," said Mr Ilyin, who has worked on the paper for more than 20 years. "We had a lot more freedom under communism than people ever gave us credit for."

Certainly this week his

paper has rediscovered its old form. On the day after the first election results showed a strong Communist lead in the polls, the newspaper ran a banner headline straight out of its past: "Hold Firm Communists!"

The editorial that day was equally rousing. It likened the spread of anti-communism to the Aids virus, which had finally been rejected by the Russian nation's immune system. "The President tried hard in his address to infect all our

people with these pernicious germs," said *Pravda*, referring to Mr Yeltsin's pre-election attack on communism. "But it did not work!"

Yesterday the paper ran a lengthy interview with Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader, widely regarded as Mr Yeltsin's toughest opponent for the presidential elections in June.

*Pravda* seems to have regained some of its influence: at least one government minister has been in touch to restore relations.

However, the articles will have done nothing for the average Russian who has acquired a taste for the Western-style mass market dailies that specialise in sex and crime stories. Many readers have already forgotten that not so long ago they had to read between the lines of heavy Soviet prose to elicit the few nuggets of information contained in the official press.

"I remember for important job interviews in the Soviet times you were expected not only to have read but memorised that day's editorial in *Pravda*," said one Muscovite. "I hope it won't come to that again."

## Yeltsin pledges to save reform

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN yesterday promised not to backtrack on economic reform, as latest figures from the parliamentary election showed the Communist Party and its allies taking up to 40 per cent of seats in the State Duma.

In his first public statement since the election, Mr Yeltsin said the Government would stick to "the same policies as before and not deviate from the path of reforms". Speaking

at a medal-pinning ceremony in the Barvikha sanatorium outside Moscow, where he is recovering from a mild heart attack in October, he added: "We have no grounds to be worried or to regard the election as a tragedy."

The President can use his strong powers to override or ignore the new parliament. In practice he will find that difficult, especially as presidential elections are six months away. Some Cabinet changes are expected, with Yevgeni Yasin, the Economics

Minister, thought likely to be sacked. Other projects, such as a land privatisation Bill, stand no chance of being passed in the new Duma.

The latest results from Sunday's elections showed the Communists and their allies heading for about 180 of the 450 seats in the Duma. Vladimir Zhirinovsky's Liberal Democratic Party, will win about 50 seats, with reformist and centrist parties taking about 130. Most of the other seats have been won by independents.

## Patten attacks sedition law plan

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

IN THE wake of alarm at the heavy sentence given last week to Wei Jingsheng, the Chinese dissident, Hong Kong's Government is pressing Peking to moderate its prospective sedition laws for the territory after 1997.

Chris Patten, the Governor, said yesterday that the Government has been waiting for a response from Peking to questions about sedition — against which no Hong Kong laws exist — and "our patience, while legendary, is not infinite".

On Tuesday, leaders of the Democratic Party, which holds the most seats in the Legislative Council, said that if the Government could not find an agreement with China on sedition, the party would introduce a private member's Bill. This would be open to Mr Patten's veto, but no gubernatorial veto has been exercised for 50 years.

Martin Lee, the Democrats' chairman, said yesterday that Mr Patten would be "judged by history" on how he protected Hong Kong's legislators from the law under which Wei was jailed for 14 years.

"A lot of legislators, including the pro-China ones, also have said something critical to China and that is what Mr Wei did," Mr Lee said. "As long as the Chinese Government doesn't like what you say, they will say you are subversive."

China's mini-constitution for Hong Kong states that laws will come into being which "prohibit any act of treason, secession, sedition or subversion against the Central People's Government".

Mr Patten has already made clear, although without giving details, that he would be prepared to introduce legislation which would blunt the force of such a law.

He said yesterday: "Nobody should be very surprised that these issues are once again the focus of attention and debate. It is not because of anything the Hong Kong Government has done. I think Chinese officials and China advisers should ask themselves why there is so much concern in Hong Kong about these civil liberties matters."



Chirac demanded that Juppé bring back hope

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The complex link between alcohol and strokes

## Beware of binges

THE ROMANS celebrated Saturnalia, the Anglo-Saxons Wassail, and for the last few hundred years we have been enjoying Christmas with a few extra drinks. Wassail is not entirely forgotten: at the start of the Christmas livery dinner of the Turners Company, a magnificent wooden Wassail Cup was presented to the master so that he could pledge the health and continuing friendship of all those present.

Drinking on such formal occasions is usually reasonably modest. But the pattern of northern European drinking in general tends to be spasmodic rather than regular, as in southern Europe. And spasmodic — or binge — drinking has its own hazards.

The Department of Health's conclusions that it is safe to drink rather more than was previously suggested were based on a scientific report which summarised all available medical evidence, but which itself received no publicity.

Some of the report's findings make fascinating reading, particularly its section on the relationship of alcohol intake to strokes. It is a popular myth among doctors as well as laymen that the likelihood of a stroke is inevitably increased by drinking alcohol. Evidence quoted in the ministerial document showed that the association is much more complex. And there is some encouragement for those who enjoy their four glasses of claret or couple of glasses of whisky or two pints of beer a day.



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

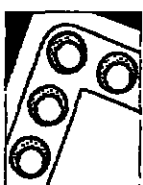
A stroke is a popular name for the damage which is caused to the brain as a result of failure of its blood supply. Each year strokes kill 62,000 people in Britain, and account for 10 per cent of all deaths. They have a variety of causes. Strokes are technically described either as haemorrhagic or ischaemic. In a haemorrhagic stroke, either an artery within the brain ruptures and bleeds, or one supplying the covering of the brain, the meninges, gives way. Haemorrhagic strokes are more common in younger people. In an ischaemic stroke an artery does not rupture but is blocked, either by a clot or by a plaque of atheroma, a piece of fatty material which has become detached from the artery wall.

Eighty-five per cent of strokes are ischaemic, only 15 per cent haemorrhagic. The good news in the health department's report is that the incidence of ischaemic stroke, the common variety, is halved by drinking two to five units (one unit is a small glass of wine or its equivalent) of alcohol a day for men, or two to four units for women.

The bad news is that conversely, the chance of having the less common form of stroke, the haemorrhagic type that affects younger people, is increased by drinking more than three units a day.

Whatever the type of stroke, binge drinking is bad. As the official report puts it: "A number of studies suggest that regular drinking is more beneficial than irregular consumption."

## Sex and the morning after

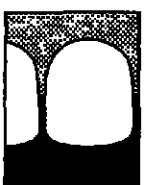


THE wilder excesses of office parties will for some people have an added hazard this year. Anecdotal evidence, supported by a recorded increased demand for PC4 — emergency postcoital contraception, the misnamed morning-after pill — suggests that anxiety induced by the Committee for the Safety of Medicines' report on the third-generation pill has discouraged some women from taking any type of pill at all.

Research may eventually show that the minuscule increase in the death rate from pulmonary embolism caused by the third-generation pill would have been outweighed by other advantages. In the meantime it should be realised that pregnancy causes a greater risk of thrombosis than any pill.

Those who have been foolhardy enough to give up the pill should remember that Schering's PC4, the only product licensed for emergency treatment, is effective for 72 hours after intercourse, not only on the morning after. No further unprotected intercourse should take place before the next period, which may be slightly delayed.

## Take HRT for healthier teeth



OSTEOPOROSIS affects not only the spine and limb bones, but also the jaws. Loss of density in the jawbones results in the teeth working loose so that food is able to become trapped around them, causing gum recession, inflammation and infection. In many cases the teeth become so loose that they either fall out or have to be extracted. Treatment is concentrated on keeping the gums healthy with massage and perhaps, in the most severe cases of gum infection, prescribing antibiotics from time to time.

An American study reported in *General Practitioner* magazine, which involved nearly 6,000 retired women, has shown that HRT (hormone replacement therapy) has a dramatic impact on preserving healthy teeth in older women. Those taking HRT were only half as likely to have lost their teeth, and only 20 per cent as liable to need dentures. Gums, too, presumably benefited from teeth that fitted their sockets more closely, so that inflammation was reduced and mouths were healthier.

# Searching for safe ways to fall asleep

Insomniacs will try anything to get a night's rest but some cures, says Dr Laurence Knott, may keep you awake with worry

MR JOHNSON was a pitiful sight as he entered the surgery. Haggard and drawn, he had come to ask for sleeping tablets. I would like to have complied with his request, but along with many other GPs, I have been encouraged to reduce drastically the number of sleeping tablets I prescribe.

Although benzodiazepines, such as temazepam and nitrazepam, were introduced as a safer option than barbiturates, worrying reports in the medical literature about dependency, publicity about legal actions against GPs and pressure from the family

ment allowed them to be advertised as hypnotics, since when sales have rocketed. This even applied to cold cures containing antihistamines, such as Night Nurse.

This situation worries sleep experts such as Professor Ian Hindmarch, Head of Psychopharmacology at Surrey University. He is concerned that patients buying sleeping tablets will be exposed to side-effects worse than those of prescribed drugs, and that treatable causes of insomnia will remain undiagnosed.

Professor Hindmarch has been studying the effects of

'Daytime sleepiness takes its greatest toll among drivers'

insomnia and sleeping tablets on daytime alertness for 27 years. "You cannot interfere with the biological time clock without damage," he says. "Sleep and wakefulness are delicately balanced. Sleep disturbance occurs when wakefulness intrudes into sleep and vice versa. If you upset this relationship, it can affect a person's whole quality of life."

Perhaps because they have had little to offer patients, doctors have tended to shy away from the serious complications of insomnia. In 1979, an American scientist, Daniel Krypke, reported that men who regularly had fewer than four hours sleep a night were nearly three times as likely to die within six years than those who slept longer. Insomnia was found to predict morbidity and mortality just as much as heart disease, diabetes, stroke and hypertension.

Poor quality sleep is often associated with breathing disturbances such as sleep apnoea, which is in turn related to stroke and cardiac failure. Daytime sleepiness due to insomnia or the hangover effects of some sleeping tablets can be lethal for people operating machinery, and contributes to falls and long bone fractures in the elderly.

Sleepiness takes its greatest toll among drivers. Researchers from Loughborough University have examined the proportion of road accidents in southwest England and the Midlands that were sleep related. Their study, published by the *British Medical Journal* earlier this year, concluded that 16-23 per cent of road accidents were caused by drivers falling asleep at the wheel.

Insomnia can exert more subtle influences on an individual's quality of life. In 1990, Nielok Rombaut and her colleagues reported in the *Medical Science Research Journal* that eight out of ten people who had poor quality sleep also had difficulties with relationships and depression.

Using objective psychophys-



Tossing and turning: nothing is more depressing than lying in bed unable to sleep

ical tests, Professor Hindmarch has been studying drugs that affect daytime alertness since 1967 when he found that teenagers were abusing their parents' benzodiazepines. His department has adapted a car for the laboratory, with a light mounted on the bonnet. The driver is asked to push the brake pedal when the light comes on. Other tests include asking the subject to catch a ruler between forefinger and thumb, and the critical flicker fusion test which measures when a flashing light appears to fuse into a single light source as the rate of flashing increases.

Combined with mental

arithmetic and memory tests, these assessments show benzodiazepines significantly reduce daytime alertness, and the ability to handle and process information. At 70mph drivers taking long-acting benzodiazepines — such as temazepam or nitrazepam — or sedative antidepressants add an extra 12 to 13 feet to their stopping distances.

Modern hypnotics such as zolpidem have been developed to satisfy current drug safety regulations. When zolpidem was tested by Professor Hindmarch he found that it did not

affect brake reaction times. Furthermore, unlike the older drugs, it did not induce daytime drowsiness or impair memory. There have been no recorded incidents of dependency. Its nearest rival, zopiclone, can produce an unpleasant after-taste and there have been reports of hangover, hallucinations and disturbed behaviour.

Professor Hindmarch believes GPs should prescribe modern hypnotics in the same way as they do antibiotics. "A short course — no more than two weeks — given early in the condition can effect a cure," he advises.

● The writer is a GP in Middles.

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## Stay calm and heal faster

Dr Kieran Sweeney on the effects of stress on the wounded

AN AMERICAN study suggests that stress delays the rate at which wounds heal.

Researchers from Ohio State University invited people who were caring for relatives with dementia to take part in the study. Such carers consistently have high levels of stress, and frequently participate in studies on stress and illness. The participants agreed to undergo a small skin biopsy on their arms, and the rate at which this small wound healed was compared to a non-stressed control group.

Complete wound healing took significantly longer among the carers — nearly nine days more overall. The delay in healing was at its most obvious in the first five weeks, by which time nearly

half the control group had healed completely, compared to about 15 per cent of the carers.

The researchers think that the delay was caused by the relatively low levels of the protein interleukin-6 in the bloodstream of the carers. This protein, produced soon after tissue injury, regulates the remodelling of the connective tissue in wounds and the rate of production of collagen, the tough fibrous tissue in scars.

The study suggests that stress impairs not just the response to infectious diseases, but also the body's ability to heal. Clearly, this could have important consequences for people undergoing major surgery.

INSIDE SECTION 2

An opera house on the banks of the Thames: Marcus Binney takes the wraps off a sensational building project

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# It's Bardot versus the Queen

**T**wo ladies of a certain age who both love animals will speak to the nation and compete for the post-pudding audience on Christmas Day. Kate Muir gets an exclusive preview of Brigitte's speech

**BRIGITTE BARDOT**, the sex kitten who turned into a cat-lover, dog-defender and sheep-saver, will give the alternative Queen's Speech on Channel 4 this Christmas in the traditional 3pm slot. For the first time two sixtiesomething animal lovers — both greying, soberly dressed and wearing reading glasses — will be pitted against one another for the post-pudding ratings.

It is hard to believe that Bardot, now 61, and the Queen are of much the same generation, but an exclusive preview of Bardot's ten-minute plea for animal rights confirmed this is indeed the case. Bardot is still decidedly glamorous, in a black suit, her hair perched like an elegant nest on her head, with wisps falling down. Her Kohl-rimmed eyes are the only reminder of the naked child-woman lying in the Mediterranean sun in *And God Created Woman*.

Aside from the cat perched on her desk, Bardot seems decidedly grown up. She puts on half-moon reading spectacles, and shuffles her papers: "I am sincerely delighted to be able to talk for all those who do not have the power of speech — those animals to whom I have dedicated my life, my energy, my fame and my fortune," she begins, emphasising the word fortune.

Bardot wrote the speech herself, ensuring extraordinary grammar and delightfully ill-pronounced English. She congratulates "the English people, whom I love very much for its commitment towards animals".

Living in cruel, carnivorous France, she is deeply admiring of those "wonderful British people" for trying to stop "shameful death transports of animals", particularly Jill Phipps, the woman killed during a protest over veal exports. Bardot caused a media frenzy by attending Ms Phipps's funeral last February. She describes her as "my fighting sister, to whom all my thoughts go this Christmas".

And her best Christmas gift, she says, has already been given to her — the High Court ruling last month that allowed Dempsey, the pit bull terrier who had been under

threat of being destroyed for three years, to be reunited with his owner, Dianne Fanneran.

But Bardot wants more: "I expect more than the freedom of Dempsey... I expect your Parliament to amend the Dangerous Dogs Act and allow pet lovers to have dogs. I expect and ask for Mrs Fanneran to keep her dog."

Even after more than 20 years in retirement from the screen, Bardot has a magnetic attraction. There are few others who could pull a Christmas Day crowd with assorted platitudes about their furry friends. Part of the voyeuristic fascination, it must be admitted, is metering her eccentricity and doing a wrinkle check. Unfair, because Bardot has become relaxed about her appearance, eschewing face creams and lifts and saying: "It's not amusing to watch oneself wrinkle, but now, with what I do, it doesn't matter."

**B**ardot has not rejected all trappings of celebrity, however. She still has the capriciousness of a true star, and would not agree to give the alternative Queen's Speech until Michael Grade went begging. After Bardot became involved in the Phipps affair and in providing a home for Dempsey, Channel 4 thought she might be keen for a platform in this country as the centrepiece for its Beastly Christmas theme. But even after regal permission was granted by Bardot, the actress kept refusing to make appointments since "I live from day to day". A friend says Bardot even considers an invitation to a future dinner party as "some sort of prison sentence".

When Michael Jones, the editor of the speech, turned up in Paris at the Brigitte Bardot Foundation for Animals with a vast camera, sound crew and battalions of arc lights, Bardot took one look and ran off. Later, she told Mr Jones that the elaborate set-up "brought back the horror of her early life as a film actress". She also claimed she had seen a particularly harrowing film about animals suffering that day, leaving her emotional and de-



Brigitte Bardot in competition with the Queen. Few others could pull a Christmas Day crowd with assorted platitudes about furry friends

pressed. Many telephone calls and failed rendezvous later, Bardot agreed to have a single cameraman in her office, but no fancy lighting or make-up. "I want it to be intimate," she said.

Once Bardot started filming she was fine, says Mr Jones. "She was funny and coquettish, and she did her make-up herself in a few minutes at her desk. She told me that in films she might spend six hours a day in make-up, but she was not that person any more, and didn't need to pretend to be."

So Bardot looks like something out of a home video. There are early shots of the actress, interspersed with furry baby seals, blue whales and caged puppies in what becomes a broadcast high in kitsch and nostalgia.

In tight black jeans and red cowboy boots she is seen playing ball with the dozen or so "saved" office dogs. Her figure is unchanged from that of her 46 films. She is charming and innocent, with a certain breathy exaggeration as she talks of "dogs in detention in

these horrific secret kennels". In a splendid finish, full of old-style Bardot pout, she blows a kiss, on one finger, to the viewers. "And now I wish you a sweet and merry Christmas, without turkey and without foie gras." Bardot must have forgotten one of her early acts of animal kindness on a Spanish film set when she adopted a stray dog and fed it foie gras. It died.

This is typical of the starlet's early attitude towards animals — all emotion and no sense. Bardot loved the cute and furry all her life,

but her conversion to high principled animal rights was late. She ate meat until a few years ago, and once featured in an advertisement for mink coats. Now, of course, such coats are "cemetaries women wear on their back".

These days her somewhat theatrical, baby-seal kissing sentimentality has given way to successful campaigning. France's more humane abattoir laws are known as the BB laws, seals are rarely clubbed, and even in France fur coats have become an embarrass-

ment. And what politician would refuse to take a call from BB?

Perhaps she discovered, after three marriages and umpteen lovers — from director Roger Vadim to singer Sacha Distel — that dogs are generally more faithful than men. She once said: "I gave away my beauty and youth to men. I am now giving my wisdom and experience, the best of me, to animals."

Bardot could equally say she gave away her beauty and youth to France, if not the world, because she became something much larger than herself: a symbol of the age.

**W**hile the outside world was theorising, Bardot started falling apart. She left her second husband with her baby, Nicholas, and a nervous breakdown. "How could you expect me to raise a child when I still needed my mother?" she railed.

Bardot sounds like precisely what she was at the time — a spoilt child. At least animals loved her for herself, and dealt with her spectacular mood changes with equanimity. For years, her St Tropez home was filled with donkeys, goats, rabbits, birds, dogs and cats, all saved from various terrible fates. She now lives just outside Paris with a similar menagerie, and has a trailer attached to her car for her ten or so dogs.

Bardot did make a last bid for male company in 1992 when she started living with Bernard D'Ormale, a friend of the National Front leader Jean Marie Le Pen. The running anti-fascist joke was that she picked D'Ormale because "she likes dumb animals". The relationship ended in tears, and tear gas, when the police evicted him from her Paris apartment.

And so the screen goddess lives alone once again, but for a small household zoo. Her campaigning, she says, satisfies the visionary, quixotic side of her nature. In the introduction to her Christmas message, she gives a rather sad affirmation: "Brigitte Bardot exists today only to serve the suffering animals of the world."

What will the Queen make of it all? "It is a little bit naughty," concedes a spokeswoman for Channel 4. "But we are showing the Queen's message later in the day and I don't think she'll be offended by the rival billing. She normally gets between 11 and 12 million viewers, whereas the alternative message will probably reach just under a million. And the Queen is, after all, an extremely well-known animal lover."

Peter Phillips takes to the rugby pitch tomorrow for an international against France. Mark Souster and Gillian Bowditch report

## The winning ways of a royal grandson

**T**he schoolboys, in their matching blazers and trousers, their kit bags slung haphazardly over one shoulder, will look like any other group of young sportsmen as they gather in the foyer of an Edinburgh hotel this morning. Some chatting, others telling jokes, while several simply enjoy their own counsel or browse the pages of a newspaper.

However, the 21 members of the Scottish Schools rugby squad recognised that they were involved in a team which, in future years, will provide a small footnote to history. For among their number was Peter Phillips, the eldest son of the Princess Royal and the Queen's grandson; he is the first member of the Royal Family to play international rugby, in the Scottish Schools match against France tomorrow.

The boys will be paired off together to share rooms according to their position on the field, rather than in line with any social scale. Peter will probably share with Grant Howieson, his fellow flanker and a pupil at Hutcheson's Grammar School, Glasgow.

There is no doubt that Peter is in the side on merit. During the schools' trial at Murrayfield he was selected on the bench, but elevated to the side when injury to Fergie Gladstone, a direct descendant of the Prime Minister and a close school friend, necessitated a team reshuffle. As a boy he was passionate about the sport; his love of Scotland — he has watched every home game for five years — was triggered by an incident at Murrayfield in 1990 after Scotland had won the Grand Slam against England.

As an impressionable 13-year-old he went with his mother into the Scottish dressing room to offer his congratulations. In a spontaneous gesture, David, Sole, the captain, gave him his rugby shirt. For Peter it was a defining moment, one which sparked his ambition to play for the country. His commitment since then has been total. He qualifies to play for Scotland by dint of his residency at Gordonstoun and his mother



Peter Phillips backs up his team-mate at last month's trials

is patron of the Scottish Rugby Union. Sole said: "Having coached Peter I've known for a while he had real ability. There's no reason why he shouldn't go on from here. He is a mature individual who's able to take the pressure he is under and I am sure he will fit in well."

Those who know him well testify to his charm and level-headedness. James Thomas, a master at Gordonstoun where Peter Phillips, 18 last month, is in his last year, says: "He is a very good all-rounder. It would be difficult for anyone to say anything nasty about him. He has been appointed head of school for next term and is doing extremely well. He is head of the fire brigade and therefore involved in real life incidents alongside the regular firefighters. He plays soccer and hockey at first-level level."

"Academically he's fine. He is taking three A levels and is capable of gaining a university place, if that's what he wants."

Trevor Jones, a former Guardian (head boy) of Gordonstoun and a regular visitor to the school, says: "He is a thoroughly rounded individual. He sticks out from the crowd not because he is a royal but because of his strong personality. He is very likeable and has boundless energy."

"He is good with people and there is a considerate side to his nature. His girlfriend Penny Taylor is a lovely girl. I think you can always tell something about a chap by his choice of girlfriend."

One fellow pupil, who does not want to be named, says: "He is game for anything. He never overplays the royal thing and is happy to muck in with the other boys. He is well liked here. He is just one of the chaps."

first arrived but he is now regarded as a star of the school and, although it may be hard to believe, that has nothing to do with who he is.

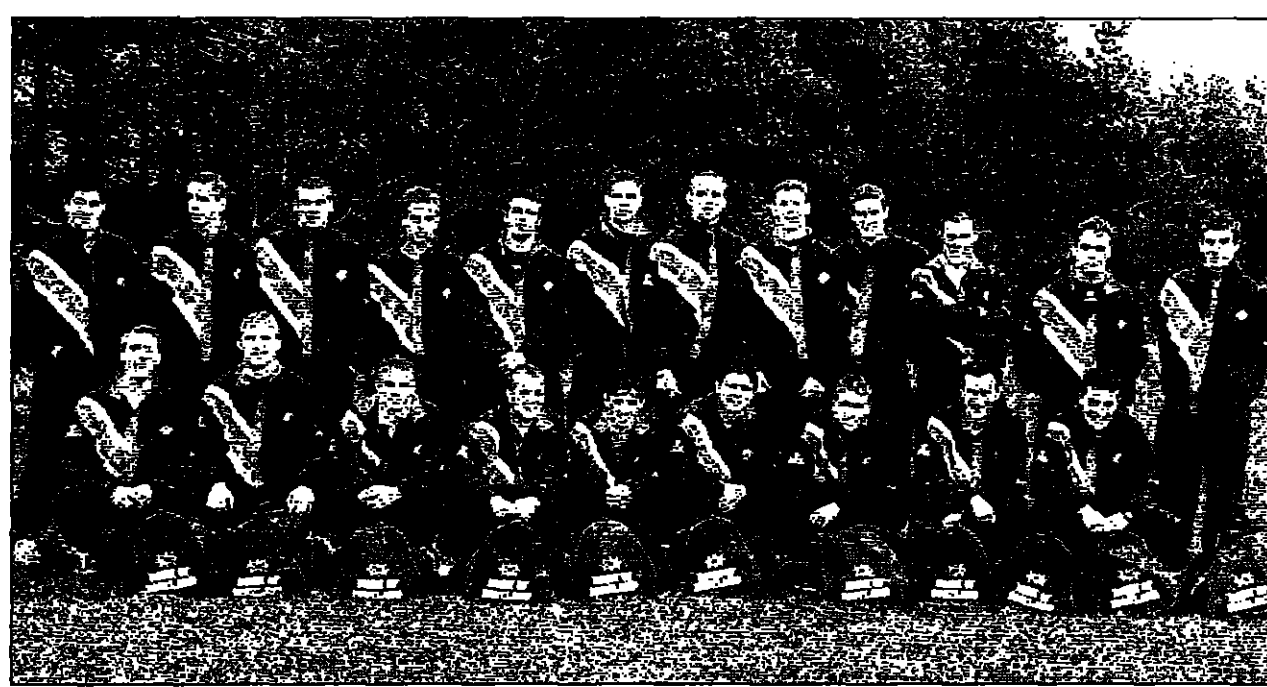
"He fell in with a rather unsuitable element at one point but that is in the past. He never plays on his royal connections and the fact that he doesn't have a title helps. He has no airs and graces, and when there are visitors he keeps a low profile. The school doesn't flaunt him. In fact it is very protective of him."

But despite being Guardian of Gordonstoun, Peter Phillips is not above the odd prank. He was gated for a week after a master caught him and a fellow pupil indulging in an illicit drinking session last year.

Unlike his uncle, the Prince of Wales, Peter has thrived at Gordonstoun, in the wilds of the Morayshire countryside. He has made lasting friendships at the school, notably with Fergus Gladstone, captain of the Gordonstoun rugby team, and Tom Lightoller, another rugby player. Tom Robertson, the president of Scottish Schools, is not surprised that of all the young members of the Royal Family it is Peter who has succeeded. "His mother is a trier, talented and dedicated, so is his father, and both represented Great Britain at the Olympics in 1976. He has a pedigree, there is a competitive edge because of his parents."

"The boy has had to grow up with media attention. Since his mother's divorce he has had to contend with photographers prying at the school, trying to catch him. He is not flying a flag of convenience — there is a genuine warmth for this country. I find him a hell of a nice guy, and he has come through everything as a very well-adjusted young man."

That quality was evident on Sunday when a car in which Peter was travelling with two schoolfriends crashed on the M6 in Lancashire. The car was wrecked and the boys were fortunate to escape unscathed. It was Peter's demeanour when talking to the police which amazed officers at the scene; he was apparently calm and unruffled despite



The Scottish Schools squad, pictured for the first time, with Peter Phillips (back row, fourth from left) ready for the fray

## Who will face France

The team that will play France, with members' position, name, age, school and career ambitions:

- 15 Stewart Connell (17) Strathallan, sport science
- 14 Stewart Walker (17) Dollar Academy, architect
- 13 Gordon Hood (16) George Heriot's, lawyer
- 12 Thomas Lightoller (18) Gordonstoun, merchant banker
- 11 Andrew Raistrick (16) George Watson's, marketing
- 10 Gordon Ross (capt, 18) George Heriot's, PE teacher
- 9 Rob Chrystie (17) Hawick High, PE teacher

MARK SOUSTER

the seriousness of the situation.

Although he would not want it, in the match against France he will again be the centre of attention. French television are sending a crew and were dismayed to find that "Non". Peter would not be willing to give an interview half an hour before kick off, or at all for that matter.

Newspaper reporters more used to stalking Balmoral will be at the ground. But rather than foster resentment, his team mates will rally round and protect him as they did after the trial match at Murrayfield.

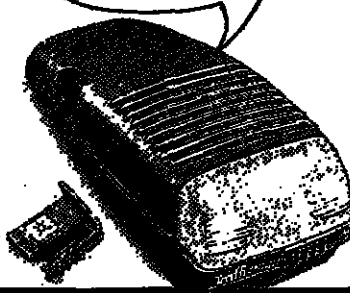
In his pen portrait for today's match programme, Peter says he hopes to pursue a career in the Armed Forces while his ambition is to play rugby at the highest possible level. While his size, he is 5ft 11in and weighs 12st 3lb, may prevent him from reaching the very top, it will not be for want of trying.

He is undoubtedly a popular figure in Scotland and has come a long way since the time when he captained a school team at a match in Inverness when the referee, on recognising the Queen's grandson, said: "Sir would you like to call tails or Granny."

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# Groups do not have rights

The European Court is wrong on gypsies, says Roger Scruton

When Edmund Burke warned against the rhetoric of "the rights of man", he foresaw what would happen when the whole of politics was summed up in the search for rights. As the claims mounted, so the State would grow to enforce them: and as the State grew, so people would lose their concern for the future of society, believing the State to have sole charge of it. Meanwhile, in order to justify its expanding power, the new political class would invent more and more rights, while removing whole categories from the list of those entitled to enjoy them.

And so it happened: within two years of Burke's famous *Reflections*, the Revolutionary Tribunals of France were condemning thousands to death in the name of rights granted and revoked without respect for law, and as part of a vast experiment in social engineering.

The list of claims has continued to expand: so too has the list of claimants. Children, minorities, groups, animals — all have been granted rights against the rest of us, regardless of whether they know this, and regardless of whether our rights can be enforced against them. Contemplating the moral and intellectual mess into which we have been led by the idea, one is tempted to agree with Bentham, that talk of rights, outside the context of law, is just "nonsense on stilts".

However, the problem lies less with the concept of a right, than with the unprincipled application of it, in the service of massive social experiments. This is how we should understand the idea of "group rights", used to grant privileges to some people and remove them from others, solely on the basis of their social groups. The idea is foreign to English law. But programmes of "affirmative action" in America and judgments of the European Court have both taken it for granted.

It has been a widespread practice in America to grant preferential treatment to candidates for a job or a scholarship purely on the ground that they belong to some favoured "minority". Certain groups, it is argued — women, homosexuals, blacks, "Native Americans" — have suffered unjust disadvantages. To rectify the situation, we must therefore tip the balance the other way, and ensure that membership of these groups counts in favour of a privilege and not against it.

It does not require much intellectual acumen to recognise that this practice exemplifies the very injustice complained of: the injustice of favouring one person and penalising another on account of a wholly irrelevant characteristic. If it was unjust to offer privileges to a white person and withhold them from a black purely on account of the colour of their skin, it is equally unjust to reverse the imbalance and favour blacks against whites.

Although that is obvious, it

does not stop the concept of group rights from penetrating rhetoric and the practice of the Labour Party. "Women only" lists of prospective candidates are rightly condemned by the men who are excluded from them. It is not justice to favour women in this arbitrary way. Nevertheless, injustice is exactly what we must expect, when the concept of a right is applied to a group: for a group makes no decisions of its own and is entirely outside the sphere of moral judgment. It has no rights, for the very same reason that it has no duties.

Equally unjust, and an amazing revelation of intellectual incompetence, is the recent ruling of the European Court which tells us that gypsies have a "right" to their traditional lifestyle, regardless of our planning laws, and can therefore park their mobile homes in whatever beauty spot should take their fancy. This ruling grants to one person a privilege which is withheld from another, purely on racial grounds. Leave aside the catastrophic consequences for the English countryside: leave aside the fact that only a travesty of the traditional gypsy life can be conducted in a modern mobile home: the fact is that in the name of human rights the European Court has issued a racist judgment. Such judgments follow inevitably from attributing rights to groups, rather than to the individuals

who compose them. The only thing which has rights is the thing which accords rights to others: namely the person. And rights must be paid for by duties. The language of rights belongs to the complex procedure of negotiation whereby people come to terms with the existence of others, and recognise that there are certain things which cannot be done, and other things which must be done, if we are to live side by side in peaceful communities. Detach the concept of a right from that of the person and the result is moral and intellectual chaos.

Those on the Left tend to spread rights too widely, in order to advance their egalitarian schemes. Those on the Right make the opposite mistake, by applying the concept only to human individuals. The law recognises other kinds of person: firms, churches, clubs and schools. And what is recognised by the law is also recognised by the shadow-law which we bring to all our conflicts in order to live by negotiation among strangers.

Those who invoke group rights wrongly attribute personality to something which could not possess it. But institutions do possess personality: they are capable of acting rightly or wrongly, of respecting rights and also of trampling on them. And if they wrong us, then we should resent their actions, as prospective make candidates should resent the Labour Party, and as we all should resent the European Court.



## A too German Union

Chancellor Kohl has pushed France and Britain too hard, and now they reject his centralising plans

I begin to suspect that Helmut Kohl and Bill Cash are objectively allies in a common struggle, though subjectively both of them would deny it. It begins to look as though the German political class has despised Britain and now believes that the sort of Europe they want to build can only be created if Britain leaves the European Union. The process would be one of constructive dismissal. It also begins to look as though Euro-sceptic opinion in Britain is swinging towards the same conclusion: that Britain would actually be better off outside the European Union, provided terms similar to the Norwegian trade relationship could be negotiated.

What evidence is there for thinking that Germany, at least subconsciously, would now like to create a Europe without Britain? Chancellor Kohl's demeanour at Madrid suggests it. His rebuke to Jacques Santer for failing to keep the commissioners in line shows how intolerant of any dissent he has become. John Major put an entirely rational case for caution on the single currency; he was marginalised even more completely than Margaret Thatcher in Rome in 1990.

Germany has brushed aside all British objections to the federalist European policy, at least in the period since reunification. In 1992, when both the pound and the franc were under pressure in the European exchange-rate mechanism, German policy was clear. The franc was defended at all costs; the pound was cut adrift. As Maastricht had made membership of the ERM the precursor to the single currency, that amounted to a German decision that Britain was not part of the inner Europe, but that France was.

Since German reunification, traditional German cultural patterns have been reasserting themselves. The world can be divided into societies with control cultures on the one hand, and those with liberal and pluralist cultures on the other. Both in Confucian and Marxist influences and in the Mandarin tradition, China is an example of a control culture, whereas the pluralism of races and of the Hindu gods makes India far more liberal. It is no coincidence that India has made a success of democracy whereas China has not.

The great German philosophers, Kant, Fichte, Hegel and Marx, go with Plato and Confucius as philoso-

phers of the control culture. The great English-language philosophers, Locke, Hume, Smith, Mill and the Bostonian William James are liberal and pluralist. The German political tradition is undeniably authoritarian; Frederick the Great, Bismarck, Kaiser Wilhelm and Hitler are notoriously so, but Adenauer and Kohl are also authoritarian democrats.

The nation with so strong a control culture, both in philosophy and in statesmanship, cannot believe that its own vision of Europe's future is not the only one. If the European Union were to be created on the German model, it was bound to be a control structure: indeed the European Union as it now exists is bureaucratic rather than democratic.

This structure does not seem in any way unnatural or sinister to most Germans, however democratic, but it does seem unnatural and sinister to most British people, as it would to most Americans. The French are more divided: their political tradition is one of autocracy interrupted by revolution.

The European fishing debate in the Commons, in which the Government was defeated, shows how far this British reaction has already gone. The debate was generally reported as though its significance was that Bill Cash had voted with Labour. Not so. The significance was that Labour voted with Bill Cash. Of course, the European fishing policy is a disaster, like the common agricultural policy. Of course, it damages British interests and has virtually destroyed our fisheries. But such damage is the price we pay for membership of the European Union, and Labour would have no chance of changing the policy. The vote against the fisheries policy was logically a vote against the whole European bargain.

Does this all mean that Britain is moving, however gradually, towards the European end? Probably not.

Germany and Britain may be closer to contemplating a divorce — I think they are much closer than either realises — but events in France and Russia have been changing as well: in both countries the changes will tend to reduce German power. They therefore make a pluralist Europe more likely and a fully Deutschified Europe less of a threat.

The Russian elections were a major victory for the Communists. The Carnegie Centre estimates that the Communists and their allies will have 160 seats in the new Duma, out of a total of 450, and the LDP, which is fascist, will have 50. The two pro-democratic parties, Our Home Is Russia and Russia's Choice, will have 80 and 20 respectively. The rest of the members will be independent. That is a Weimar-like assembly, and crime and economic conditions are so bad in Russia that an authoritarian presidency, of one type or another, is very possible in 1996. The next presidential election is only six months away.

Chancellor Kohl has been able to lean on his smaller neighbours, in the style of a Japanese Sumo wrestler. The normal balancing power to Germany, Russia, has been temporarily removed. The Duma elections suggest that the Russians are now moving towards a reassertion of their presence, possibly in a benign form or possibly in a dangerous one. By the end of next year there will probably be some Russian counterbalance to the German dominance in Eastern Europe. That alone should lead the Germans to recognise the interdependence inherent in their position. Germany has medium-term economic and welfare problems as serious as those of France. A Russian resurgence could also lead to a dangerous last-minute rush to complete the creation of a European Union on the German model.

William Rees-Mogg

## Honour among friends

David Ashby will not sink, says

Peter Riddell

David Ashby's personal and financial humiliation is not going to be allowed to threaten the future of the Government. The Tory party looks after its own: not because of sentiment, friendship or some unwritten code of behaviour, but through simple self-preservation. MPs may privately revel and snigger at colleagues' discomfiture, but they help one who is down. Mr Ashby has never been part of the Westminster club. Always a loner, he was advised not to pursue his disastrous libel action. But his troubles are not his alone. If he were forced into bankruptcy he would have to stand down as an MP, and the Tories would face certain defeat in the subsequent election, further jeopardising their slim majority. This will not happen.

Tory MPs are rallying round him, because if he sinks, they will all suffer. To use a senior Tory's word, they will try to keep him "buoyant", both financially and to prevent him doing anything reckless. Fellow Tories, many of whom had not spoken to him for years, cheered when he asked a question in the Commons on Tuesday. And there is talk of a financial support operation.

As a mixture of prefects and informers, the Tory whips try to prevent scandals developing, or at least from becoming public. They have their own intelligence network and a black book of MPs' quirks and misdemeanours is locked away in their common-room-like office off the Members' Lobby.

The Metropolitan Police rings the whips' office first if an MP gets into trouble. Police immediately contacted the Tory whips in February last year when they found what they correctly believed to be the body of Stephen Milligan in bizarre circumstances. One of the whips' duties is to bail out MPs in trouble. In the late 1980s, they were more than once called out after a minister, now no longer in the House, was picked up in gents' lavatories, usually pretty drunk. None of that ever became public.

When scandals emerge in the press, the whips try to minimise the impact on the party generally. Offenders are left to justify themselves in the media and to their local parties. Most scandals are forgotten in time if the MP mends fences with his local party. Tim Yeo's infidelities were the big post-Christmas story two years ago and he had to resign from the Government. But he was recently re-elected by his constituency party in Suffolk with no fuss.

Financial scandals usually take longer to flare up. It all depends on when, or whether, the affected MP notifies the whips. When John Heddle killed himself in December 1989, after facing big losses over his property interests, senior whips said they would have tried to help if only they had known. But Heddle was a proud man, reluctant to ask for assistance.

There is no secret slush fund: the Tory party has financial problems enough of its own. Tory supporters, whether local party members or big individual donors, would be furious if their money were diverted to help someone in financial trouble. What happens is more informal. As one former chief whip told me, the whips act as contacts, like substitute bank managers of the old school. They put the MP in touch with people who may be able to help.

Help is sometimes arranged by one of the whips or a senior backbencher. Rich individuals and wealthy MPs, a number of whom still have millions of family money, are asked to provide loans to ensure that the errant MP does not go bust. Often, of course, the assumption is that loans will not be repaid.

By definition, these exercises are secret — akin to the Bank of England's efforts to rescue companies, which is counted a success if it remains invisible. But ministers confirmed yesterday that a number of Tory MPs had been helped out in the current Parliament: some whose companies had run into trouble in the early 1990s, and some victims of Lloyd's.

A rare example of a public rescue involved Harvey Proctor after he was forced to step down at the 1987 election after his conviction for gross indecency. Matthew Parris records in his *Great Parliamentary Scandals* that Mr Proctor retained the support of the whips, and that a group of 16 Tory MPs and ministers from across the party (including two who later had to resign themselves) invested a total of £80,000 in a new men's shirt shop which he set up in Richmond.

A support operation is now being discussed for Mr Ashby, although he will not have to find any money for some time. It could take until the summer for the costs of the case to be finalised, and then he could have a further couple of months to appeal against this assessment. So any help might not be needed until next autumn at the earliest. Even if the worst does occur, Mr Ashby might not face bankruptcy for almost a year, and the Tory whips could then delay any by-election until spring 1997, when a general election will anyway have to be held. The Tory club will ensure that a personal disaster does not turn into a collective catastrophe.

## Justice done

MYRA HINDLEY has a new lawyer — a petite brunette in her mid thirties, who goes by the name of Carolyn Taylor and happens to be the niece of the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth. News of her appointment to Myra Hindley's case came as MPs decided this week that it was "wrong in principle" for a Home Secretary to have the power to keep murderers in jail once they have served their time.

It also comes just after the Moors murderer put her case for freedom in a 5,000-word "essay" in *The Guardian*.

Fellow solicitors said yesterday that the appointment did not surprise them. Carolyn works from Taylor Nichols in Finsbury Park, north London. "The practice has a profile of representing prisoners," says one. "She is very much respected because of her independent disposition." Hindley's previous lawyer, Andrew McCooey, says he has represented her for seven years: "but eventually I found the media intrusion excessive."

Her partner in the practice, Jim Nichol, represents the Bridgewater Four and was at one time a member of the Socialist Workers Party.

But Carolyn is not believed to share his Trotskyite persuasions. Yesterday, the Lord Chief Justice would not comment on his niece's remarkable appointment, and Carolyn herself was not answering calls.

● Should John Major's fishy rebels need a nerve-centre for their piscatorial activities, they need look no further than the Laughing Halibut, a fish-and-chip shop



beloved of some Westminster's sturdier fellows. The manager is offering a free fish supper to any member who defied the whip to stick up for the British fleet.

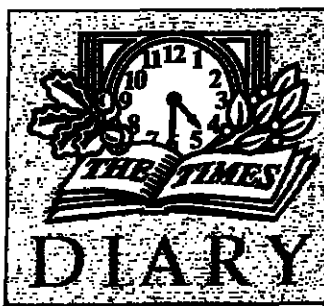
### Daisy chore

HUGH GRANT and Emma Thompson were reduced to crawling on hands and knees during the filming of the latest Jane Austen adaptation, *Sense and Sensibility*, which opens in the new year. The entire crew and cast were roped into a madcap scheme to pick every single daisy on the lawn at Montacute House in Somerset.

The Taiwanese director, Ang Lee, was shooting a winter scene at the National Trust property in the middle of June when he realised daisies were not exactly seasonal. "He asked everybody to help to pick them out of the lawn," says a National Trust representative. "It took ages. I have never seen so many bottoms in the air."

### Party poopers

JOHN MAJOR'S tormentor John Redwood has been hit by burglars in his Wokingham constituency. The hoodlums made off with the sharp-eared one's Christmas sharpshooters — his bottles of whisky, claret, champagne and



sherry — all carefully selected from the House of Commons cellars.

A number of the bottles were earmarked for party workers who supported the former minister when he challenged Major for the party's leadership this summer.

### Out of site

LORD ST JOHN OF FAWLEY, the perfectly proportioned president of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and occasional escort of Princess Margaret, is in a frightful flap over plans for a statue at Westminster Abbey.

In his capacity as chairman of the Fine Art Commission, he is appalled that Westminster Council is even contemplating allowing the Innocent Victims Memorial to be erected on the north green.

Both the memorial and its proposed siting are wrong. Westminster

City Council should reconsider the whole idea," he shudders. "It is a figurative statue of a woman in a long frock fleeing with her child, whereas it should be abstract like the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The statue might work if it were by Epstein or Michelangelo but this is quite wrong."

The council is contrite under the onslaught. "The quality of the design will be looked at again."

● José Carreras, the smallest of the three tenors, has been learning Chinese in secret to impress his fans in South-East Asia. On an album due out next year he warbles a track in Chinese called "Kazakhstan Folk Song". Other songs on the album are in Spanish, English, Italian and Latin. European admirers, however, will not be able to enjoy this unusual track. "The European version will not include it," says his music publisher. "He said it would be incongruous."

### Pattenbook

CHRIS PATTEN'S middle daughter, Laura, cut a dash when she arrived in Hong Kong in a mini-skirt stylish enough to raise eyebrows around the colony's cocktail circuit. Now the Governor's delightful youngest daughter, Alice, is causing something of a stir in the country set. She makes her teenage



Country girl

debut this week posing as one of the "girls in pearls" for the frontpiece of *Country Life*.

In the past, it has been her two sisters, Whisky and Soda, which have hit the headlines. Whisky once bit a workman in the Governor's House and Soda vanished in 1992, giving rise to fears that he had been turned into a succulent Eastern dish.

P.H.S





## SOLDIERS IN THE SNOW

Salute to the men left to deal with politicians' wars

Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, the commander of the United Nations force in Bosnia, has now relinquished his responsibilities. He has conducted his command with great astuteness and resolve in terrible circumstances. As it takes over, Nato owes him a considerable debt: his decision last September to take on the Serbs made possible the settlement the Alliance is now committed to enforce. The earlier lessons of this thankless, under-equipped and confused UN mission must be absorbed; but as it ends, tribute is due. UN troops saved thousands of lives, kept a lifeline open into Sarajevo and, in many cases with acts of individual heroism, tried to limit the devastation of war on countless small communities. In the effort, 214 UNPROFOR soldiers were killed and 1,500 wounded.

The guns which the UN could not silence are now quiet. The treacherous task of turning the absence of war into a stable peace now falls to Nato's "Joint Endeavour". There is no veiling the risk of military casualties in this operation, in which 13,000 British troops will be engaged, and the political risks are if anything greater than the military. The Bosnia operation will set the pattern for America's future strategic relations with the European continent. It must not fail. Nato could founder with it. But nobody would have chosen Bosnia, in all its complexity, as Nato's post Cold War testbed. The Alliance will have failed if its military power merely suppresses this conflict temporarily, only for it to break out when the Alliance departs. But to achieve genuine success — civil peace in Bosnia and lasting stability in the Balkans — will be a tall order.

The Bosnia accord contains strong guarantees backed by all the major powers. It is also flexible about the detail of implementation. The fact remains that it enshrines what is at best a half-peace, and for the future, it attempts the trickiest of combinations — between a physical partition of the country and a legal assertion of its continued territorial integrity as a single state.

In Paris, another fiction was affirmed: Nato is there with the consent of all parties. That may be so, at the top, but it will rapidly

be put to the test when the Serbian suburbs of Sarajevo are returned to Bosnian government control: when, in the British sector, land now under Muslim-Croat control comes to be handed back to the Serbs; and in the disputed Posavina corridor which is to be jointly policed by US and Russian troops. The decisiveness with which a British contingent yesterday swept past Serb checkpoints on a former front line in Western Bosnia must be the pattern of the next few weeks and months. There must be no repetition of the humiliating UN haggling at wayside roadblocks with local militias.

The first challenges are physical. Winter weather, which has already delayed some troop deployments, dominated the formal hand-over at Sarajevo airport yesterday: freezing fog prevented Admiral Leighton Smith, the overall Nato commander, from landing. But winter in Bosnia has tended to be on the side of peace: the race is to achieve a semblance of stability before the snows melt. Nato's first task will be to separate the combatants; but by next summer, the mission is expected to have created sufficiently stable conditions to enable the elections to be held which, in theory and in hope, are to enable Bosnia's citizens to cohabit in peace.

Nato's political leaders have ordered a well-trained, adequately equipped force of 60,000 to impose respect for an imperfect peace treaty after nearly four years of fighting in which every law of war and of peace has been brutally broken. The troops from Britain, America, France and 29 other Nato and non-Nato countries now preparing for a Christmas of cold comfort and hard months ahead have the right to expect steadfastness of those at home when the going gets rough, as it will. There must be no panicked calls to quit, no loose talk of *quagmires*, no *carping at field commanders*. Nato has a sound peace enforcement strategy and well-trained troops. Never has it been more true than in Bosnia that soldiers are left to deal with the wars which politicians have made. After years of political bungling, these soldiers come late to the rescue of peace. We wish them Godspeed.

## NEW SPIES FOR OLD

MPs need to look closely at how MI5 fights crime

Rather than shed its spies who have been made less useful by the end of the Cold War and the Irish ceasefire, the Government has often preferred to redeploy them. MI5 first took overall responsibility for fighting terrorism and, in a Bill published yesterday, is given a widened remit to allow its officers to conduct operations against organised crime. Tom King and his colleagues on the Commons Intelligence and Security Committee should feel free to ask hard questions and to set benchmarks by which they will judge the success or failure of using MI5 to combat crime. They laid out some of the unresolved issues in a short report yesterday, but they can and should probe more deeply. "The committee refers to the 'distinct package of skills' which MI5 can bring to law enforcement. But yesterday's report takes as read the Prime Minister's assertion to the Conservative Party conference that MI5 will be able to add value to all existing measures against organised crime. The MPs should want to know whether or not the Government is being bamboozled into maintaining the budget of a counter-intelligence agency which no longer has to spot Warsaw Pact spies and which may one day be able to relax its efforts against the IRA. To be worth continuing and worth defending, MI5 operations against organised crime must represent value for money and avoid duplication with existing agencies.

This is not merely a matter of good housekeeping. The policeman aims to put the drug dealer or money launderer out of business by putting him out of circulation. To achieve that, the detective needs both intelligence and evidence good enough for a

court. The intelligence officer, by contrast, needs to know and to understand well enough to warn or advise his customers in Government. By any means his superiors will allow him, he must acquire information which his target does not know he has.

The argument that the Mafia, Yuppies or Triad gangs are a threat to national security is flimsy. The case for MI5 help is more technical and was succinctly expressed by an MI5 director who retired this year. The police, he said, were expert at covert information-gathering in short term, reactive investigations. MI5 specialised in the longer term, "learning the command structures, understanding the people and the pattern of illegal activities". MI5 can warn and alert other authorities about criminal conspiracies which are exceptionally difficult to penetrate. But their skills may only be of indirect help in putting criminals behind bars.

Mr King's committee is therefore quite right to stress that there is no element of merger in the new relationship between MI5 and the police: the police remain in control. The application of that cardinal principle may lead to some internal reorganisation of police forces and Home Office agencies. The committee says that MI5 should act "in support of" the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS). To judge by last summer's report from the Commons Home Affairs Committee, the NCIS may not yet command either the powers, resources or maturity to master its tasks. Intelligence agencies attract a lot of attention; but bodies such as the NCIS are at least as important in strengthening the nation's defences against transnational criminals.

## DREAMING OF...

The day when it is never the wrong kind of snow

On a visit to Washington during the war, the story goes, Churchill asked to see Isaiah Berlin, a bright young man he had heard was working in America. Sitting down expectantly to talk to the great mind, he asked him what he considered to be his greatest work. Irving Berlin, still puzzled at the urgent request to meet Churchill, promptly replied: "White Christmas."

With due deference to the Oxford philosopher, Irving's work does indeed eclipse that of his namesake in popular acclaim. No Christmas is now safe from Bing Crosby crooning in every pub and supermarket. No bookie can refuse the wager every betting Englishman is tempted to place that snow will fall on Christmas Day.

This year, many bookies are regretting the generous odds they gave last summer when drought seared the land. Anti-cyclones are fickle fortune-tellers. The bookies ought to have taken fright at the £3,500 bet placed at 7-1 two weeks ago that a single flake of snow would fall on the roof of the London Weather Centre on December 25. Did the punter have an infallible piece of prescient seaweed, or his own meteorological balloon anchored in his back garden? At any rate, the odds are now down to 2-1.

The Victorians, led by the German Prince Albert, are responsible for the notion that

snow is an essential festive trimming. Perhaps it was indeed colder in those days; but even if the snow did lie round about, it was rarely deep or crisp or even. More often it would have been grey from coal soot, slushy from horses and carriage wheels or mixed with the mud of unmade roads. Snow has fallen on the Christmas image ever since and cannot be brushed away. Indeed so powerful is the white blanket covering the Western imagination that those countries deprived of the fluffy substance at this time of year have to invent their own.

Snow cannons are roaring full-throated in Los Angeles to create a winter wonderland beneath the permanently blue skies and mild breezes of Southern California; showbiz stars sweat in woolly clothes and ermine trim to croon through the old carols for the Hollywood Christmas spectaculars. And though the barbie on Bondi Beach may now be part of the Australian Christmas ritual, the cards and the hymns are dusted with snowy powder.

The weathermen, like Santa, will have their day on Christmas Eve: the entire nation, especially the bookmakers, will hang on their predictions. This is the one time of the year when no one cares if it is the wrong sort of snow: all that matters is that it falls, gently, from the sky.

## Implications of ruling on Ofot

From Dr P. J. G. Butler

Sir, The unfortunate predicament of Mr Peter Davis (report and leading article, December 20) appears to me to be symptomatic of a major problem in Britain today, namely the apparent assumption that a training in accountancy fits someone for every position in management. Accountants often appear to place cost-efficiency above any other value.

Mr Davis thought he was doing the correct thing in saving money on his flights around the US and placed that above the other value of avoiding any apparent conflict of interest. A similar conflict appears on other occasions, where the accountancy-led board of a company, or even of a hospital, may put cost-saving above other considerations that the public would consider pre-eminent.

It is time that we returned accountants to their correct position, as just one of a number of specialists whose advice should be sought, rather than automatically as the main decision-makers. We might then get back to a process of decision-making which is more widely accepted and not driven only by cost-cutting considerations.

Yours sincerely,  
P. JONATHAN G. BUTLER,  
2 Herons Close, Cambridge,  
December 20.

From Mr Richard Branson

Sir, Jon Ashworth's article, "When battling Branson failed to hit the jackpot" (Business Analysis, December 19), states some of the criteria used by Ofot in deciding who should run the lottery. However, it put only one side of the story.

We have always argued that the National Lottery contract was awarded on the basis of a number of flawed assumptions and tests which were open to very varied interpretation by the eight bidders in their submissions. Let me give you some facts based upon the actual bids.

Our profits-for-charity bid (the Lottery Foundation) projected revenues of £37.4 billion over the 6½ years of the licence. Camelot projected £31.7 billion over the same period. The Lottery Foundation projected a contribution of £10.5 billion to the National Lottery Development Fund (NLDF). Camelot projected a maximum of £8.9 billion to the same good-causes fund.

The foundation bid projected more than a £1.6 billion additional contribution to the NLDF over the Camelot bid. The foundation would have donated all its profits to charity. This would have meant at least a further £600 million going to good causes rather than Camelot's shareholders.

Peter Davis argued that he could not and would not take into account that all our profits would go to charity, when awarding the contract to run the National Lottery. We disagreed, and still disagree. We submitted market research that indicated that many more people would have been inclined to play if they felt that all the profits were going to good causes.

Peter Davis ignored this research altogether and discounted our projected turnover figure to a level that put Camelot ahead. He stated that he felt our turnover figures were far too high. With hindsight, they were too low.

This letter would not have been necessary if Ofot had published the full details of the bid. In the interest of more open government maybe one thing that can be learnt from all this is that decisions of this magnitude should no longer be taken behind closed doors.

Yours sincerely,  
RICHARD BRANSON,  
Virgin Management Ltd,  
120 Campden Hill Road, W8.

From Mr Charles Young

Sir, Any hopes the Government might have that more senior managers could be persuaded to move from the private to the public sector will have received a serious setback as a result of the experiences of Mr Peter Davis, Director General of Ofot.

On the evidence, Mr Davis has acted openly and honestly. He consulted officials about using GTEch's private jet and noted for the record a long-standing family friendship with a non-executive director of GTEch. Nonetheless he has been subjected to a smear campaign which casts doubt on his integrity and damages his character by innuendo.

Life in the private sector can be hard. However, business people and others who are accustomed to the realities of vigorous competition will be unwilling to take on public office if, as a consequence, their privacy can be invaded and their reputations undermined at the whim of politicians and journalists.

Yours faithfully,  
CHARLES YOUNG,  
The Old Rectory, Chipping Warden,  
Banbury, Oxfordshire.

From Sir Robert Calderwood

Sir, I would like an answer to one question about the conduct of Peter Davis. Did he, knowing of his links, however informal and friendly, with individuals within GTEch, the partner in the Camelot consortium, disqualify himself from any part in the adjudication process before awarding the contract to Camelot?

Yours,  
ROBERT CALDERWOOD,  
6 Mossbank Avenue,  
Milingavie, Glasgow.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### A broader view of fisheries policy

From Mr Robin Teverson, MEP for Cornwall and West Plymouth (Liberal Democrat)

Sir, By helping to defeat the Government on fisheries policy (report, December 20) a few Conservative rebels have reaped a great deal of publicity. But why do these MPs rebel only on votes that have no impact on the real world?

Tuesday's vote was just an opportunity to pass judgment on fisheries policy over the last year. If they are really interested in a fair deal for Britain's fishermen the rebels should be thinking seriously about reform of the common fisheries policy. Calling for withdrawal from the CFP is merely to tackle the underlying problem of providing proper incentives not to over-fish.

The Liberal Democrat solution is not to nationalise fisheries policy, but to regionalise it, creating representative bodies for skippers in each fishery. If Tory rebels would engage with the real debate, rather than just cry over spilt milk, perhaps we could all make progress. Confining their protests to meaningless votes leads me to conclude that they are more interested in saving their seats than in saving our skippers.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBIN TEVERSON,  
Newton Farm,  
Metherell, Callington, Cornwall,  
December 20.

### Doubts on free access to private land

From the National Chairman of the Timber Growers Association

Sir, The antagonistic approach to landowners by Ms Kate Ashbrook, of the Ramblers' Association, in introducing its draft Access to the Countryside Bill (report, December 13) is to be deplored.

There has evolved a remarkable degree of consensus and goodwill between the various countryside bodies. Real progress has been made over vexed issues such as public access. My association encourages woodland owners to permit public access where appropriate. Many private woodlands are open to the public.

A statutory freedom to roam in all woodlands, backed by the criminal law, would not win hearts and minds amongst woodland owners: it would lead to the polarisation of views and opinions.

Yours faithfully,  
M. CRICHTON MAITLAND,  
National Chairman,  
The Timber Growers Association,  
5 Dublin Street Lane South,  
Edinburgh 14.

From Mrs J. A. Scott

Sir, When I once owned land with a footpath across it, my experience was that proper ramblers caused little problem.

The difficulty was that most of the walkers were not serious members of the Ramblers' Association and did not abide by the Country Code.

They wandered around off the footpath, climbed over dry-stone walls, gradually bringing them down, could

From Dr R. T. D. Oliver

Sir, There is increasing acceptance that there could be an element of truth in the hypothesis that rising levels of oestrogenic-like agricultural chemicals in the food chain are playing a role in the unarming of man and causing a decline in sperm count and a rising incidence of testis and possibly also breast cancer.

Having worked on this hypothesis for the last 10 years, I was disappointed that the debate on EC fishing quotas gave no consideration to how to handle the problem of declining fish fertility instead of promoting interminable warfare over how to carve up the ever-decreasing proportion.

With evidence that pollution in the North Sea and Baltic may be a real cause of marine life dying of Aids-like illnesses, as well as having reduced fertility, perhaps the fisheries industry should be campaigning for a reduction in the common agricultural policy subsidies that pay for the chemicals that generate the non-fish food mountains that have in the past so embarrassed the EC.

Yours sincerely,  
R. T. D. OLIVER,  
St Bartholomew's Hospital,  
Medical Oncology Department,  
Colston Ward,  
1st Floor, King George V Building,  
West Smithfield, EC1,  
December 20.

not be trusted to close gates securely, and let their children and dogs run wild.

Although it might seem reasonable to allow access to land which is not farmed and is designated as open country, in many areas such access would involve crossing farmed land, with all the problems and anxiety to owners and tenants which inexperienced walkers, however well intentioned, bring with them.

Yours faithfully,  
JENNIFER A. SCOTT,  
49 Shamrock Way,  
Hythe Marina Village,  
Hythe, Hampshire.

From Mr Anthony Perry

Sir, In 1993 I decided to open a 15-acre wood to the public and took legal advice as to my public liability. The advice was "to take such care as is reasonable in all the circumstances to see that [visitors] do not suffer injury on your property by reason of a danger".

Precautions would have involved fencing a pond, putting up warning notices around an old quarry and, where possible, drawing attention to fallen trees, slippery wooden bridges, soft ground etc. The quoted cost of insurance proved prohibitive and would, in any case, have been dependent on carrying out the above works.

I decided to let it be known to local people that they could use the wood; but I had, reluctantly, to decide against opening to the public at large.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY PERRY,  
12 Finsbury Park Road, N4,  
December 14.

### Maths standards

From Mr John Ainley

Sir, If Sir Wilfred Cockcroft's report, cited by Professor Emeritus Anthony Ralston in his letter of December 13 (see also letter, December 19), noted 13 years ago that "the evidence is strong that the use of calculators has not produced any adverse effect on computational ability", then the report was surely wrong. Thirteen years later, those teaching mathematics to children don't need reports or the results of research to tell them that the very opposite is true.

Pencil and paper calculation does not mean that children lose understanding of the purpose of what they are doing. Is this another conclusion borne out by research? It means that they have the opportunity to think, not just press buttons.

What is sad is that someone with Professor Ralston's academic clout should lend his support to such a hopelessly misguided theory. Many teachers of mathematics, like myself, will be appalled by his assertions.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN AINLEY,  
8 Foscoate Road, Hendon, NW4,  
December 13.

### Ashtlays à la Carlyle

From Mr Robert Moore

Sir, Regarding the paragraph in your Diary of December 13 about the Carlyle in New York (and it is never the Carlyle Hotel, or the Hotel Carlyle, but simply the Carlyle, so there): the Princess of Wales must not be allowed to think that the ashtlays have been glued to the tables because of her transient tenancy. They have always been glued down, because they come from Lalique and they cost a bomb.

I know because I was in charge of the decor there for some 17 years. The housekeeper confided in me: "It's not the people who stay with us, but the people who visit the people who stay with us". Of course.

Yours,  
ROBERT MOORE,  
66 Beaufort Mansions, SW3.

### Sound of music

From Dr Max Prola

Sir, Without a trace of disapprobation, your opera correspondent reports ("Offenbach the musical, by Frayn", December 13) that the ENO now openly admits in its programme to the use of electronic amplification of voices in its current production of *La Belle Vivette*. But, he continues, "it's a useless precaution: either singers sing words or they don't, and microphones can't change that."

But singers sing musical notes primarily, and electronic means can be used to provide them with a volume of sound that they truly do not possess. Worse, it is now possible electronically to alter pitch and tonal quality, not only in recording sessions, but during an actual performance.

Although (probably) sparingly used at the present, such artificial enhancements of musical performance threaten the foundations of opera and should be discouraged at every opportunity.

Yours faithfully,  
MAX PROLA,  
The Croft,  
High Legh, Knutsford, Cheshire,  
December 13.

### Radio 1's nativity

From Mr T. A. J. Horton

Sir, If your report (December 11; also letters, December 16) is correct then I, as a Christian, must protest against the blasphemous programme intended for broadcast by the BBC. Will the Archbishop of Canterbury remain silent? I hope that he will publicly condemn the BBC's intention.

Yours faithfully,  
T. A. J. HORTON,  
34 Walden Way,  
Frinton-on-Sea, Essex.

Business letters, page 29

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

## North/South split on daylight Bill

From Mr Derek Hodgson

Sir, Your leading article ("Lost daylight", December 15) on proposed changes to British Summer Time gives us the tired old myth that this is just a debate about Scotland. It is not. It is also about construction, communication and delivery workers throughout the United Kingdom.

My concern is with the 90,000 postmen and women in Britain, the majority of whom must be on the street by 7am. The proposals of John Butterfill's Private Member's Bill would force them to work in darkness, with staff in Scotland and the North of England delivering in the dark for over three hours.

The tourist and leisure pressure groups lobbying for this change maintain that road deaths and injuries, especially among children, would fall if we put the clocks forward one hour. In reality roads would be much more dangerous on winter mornings, arguably safer on winter afternoons and as deadly as ever for the rest of the year. Child deaths on the roads are in fact at their highest during the longer evenings of the summer months. During the Government's experiment with British Standard Time between 1968 and 1971 road accidents involving postal workers more than doubled.

This is not a debate about Scottish farmers: the proposals would affect the livelihoods and working conditions of hundreds of thousands of workers who tirelessly serve the public throughout the country.

Yours etc,  
DEREK HODGSON  
(Deputy General Secretary (Postal),  
Communication Workers Union,  
CWU House,  
Crescent Lane, Clapham, SW4,  
December 15.

From Mr D. H. R. Holland

Sir, Once again, Scottish interests have prevailed and the Cabinet has rejected the notion of aligning our clocks with Europe. I simply cannot understand why the great majority of English people cannot have what they want. When the Scots have finally devolved themselves, as seems more than likely in the not too distant future, they can have what time they like.

As a compromise, I suggest that we should change our clocks at the same time as France, Germany et al, and that we should move the clocks forwards and backwards two hours each time. This means that at least during the summer months, we would have the same time as our most important European partners.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID HOLLAND  
(Director),  
Holland and Sherry Ltd,  
9 Savile Row, W1,  
December 14.

From Mr Graeme Woolaston

Sir, Your leader on changing to European time advances the strangest argument for this proposal I have heard yet: that it would boost the Scottish tourist industry because of our "very early sunsets". In the months of December and January tourists do not conspicuously throng our streets; those who are here haven't come to enjoy the northern daylight; and when tourists do come in droves, in the summer, our sunsets are anything but early.

If European time were adopted, tourists in Scotland, like everyone else, would find winter daylight delayed till well after 9am. One can't help wondering what would be the chances of the proposed change passing the House of Commons if it had the same effect in London.

Yours faithfully,  
GRAEME WOOLASTON,  
10 Ulster Crescent,  
Steps, Glasgow,  
December 15.

From Mrs K. M. C. Macintyre

Sir, If the Government does "sabotage John Butterfill's Private Member's Bill on daylight-saving time", as your leader puts it, it will, in my opinion, be much the best thing it has done since taking office.

Yours faithfully,  
M. R. MACINTYRE,  
29 Crescent Grove, SW4,  
December 15.

From Mr Michael Harvey

Sir, Surely if there is one subject which is deserving of a referendum it is the question of whether we should adopt Central European Time. It would affect all the people of the United Kingdom so let the people of the United Kingdom decide.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL HARVEY,  
10 Andrews Close, Epsom, Surrey,  
December 13.

### Sport on TV

From Mr Simon Olley

Sir, Sport aside (letters, December 15, 19, 20), having just studied the BBC Christmas TV listings, I have decided to withhold my television licence fee on the basis that I paid for the programmes last year.

Yours faithfully,  
SIMON OLLEY,  
37 St Edith's Road,  
Kensington, Sevenoaks, Kent,  
December 19.





**THATCHED HOUSE LODGE, RICHMOND PARK**  
December 20: Princess Alexandra was represented by the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Mrs Evangeline Bruce which was held today in the Grosvenor Chapel, South Audley Street, London W1.

**London Common Law and Commercial Bar Association**  
Mr Peter Gross, QC has been elected Chairman of the London Common Law and Commercial Bar Association and Mr Colin Mackay, QC, has been elected Vice-Chairman from December 13.

**Berkhamsted Schools**  
The Governors of Berkhamsted Schools are pleased to announce the appointments of Dr Priscilla Chadwick, currently Director of Educational Development at South Bank University, as Principal of Berkhamsted Schools from September 1996. The Governors are also pleased to announce the appointments, from September 1996, of Dr Paul Neeson (currently Second Master) and Dr Helen Brooke (currently Deputy Headmistress) as Deputy Principals. These are key senior appointments within the new structure of the Berkhamsted Schools which will consist of a combined Junior/Preparatory School, a separate Girls' and Boys' Schools from 11 to 16 years and a Coeducational Sixth Form.

The Governors of Spratton Hall Preparatory School have appointed Mr Robin Barlow as Headmaster from September 1996 to succeed Mr Piers Bickley who retires after 21 years as Head. Mr Barlow is currently a Housemaster at Rugby School.

The Governors of The Bedford Charity (The Harpur Trust) have confirmed the appointment of Mr Stephen Smith to succeed Mr Peter Squire as Headmaster of Bedford Modern School from September 1, 1996, when Mr Squire will retire, having served as Headmaster of the School for 19 years. Mr Smith is presently Deputy Headmaster of Birkenhead School.

272  
1 4000

All inspired scripture has its use for teaching the truth and refuting error, or for reformation of manners and discipline in right living.  
2 Timothy 3 : 16 (REB)

**ARRINGTON** - On December 10, 1968 at the Portland Hospital, to Jan and Jim, a son, Samuel Harry, a brother and sister, both born healthy, always remembering David.

**BARNARD** - On December 10, 1968 at the Portland Hospital, to Jo and Terry, a beautiful daughter, Alex.

**COOL** - On December 16th, at St. Mary's Hospital, to Pauline and Bryan, a beautiful daughter, Olivia, a brother and sister, both born healthy.

**GOODRIDE** - On 15th December 1956 at St. Helier Hospital, to Elizabeth (née Macdonald), a daughter, Victoria Alice (née Macdonald). A sister for Catherine.

**GREENWOOD** - On 12th December 1968 at St. Mary's Hospital, to Dorothy (née Wardley) Hospital, to Sophie (née O'Brien) and a brother, both born healthy, always remembering Phoebe, loving her Mom.

**HODGE** - On December 15th, to Philip and Cath (née Hodge), a daughter, Victoria. All three doing well.

**STYRE** - On December 15th, to Thomas and Margaret, a beautiful baby boy, born healthy.

**WORTH** - On December 15th, to William and Christine, a daughter, Grace.

**DEAN**

**ALLIE** - On December 15th, to Peter and Patricia, a beautiful baby girl, born healthy.

**MICHAEL** - On December 15th, to Michael and Susan, a daughter, Nicola.

**PATERSON** - On December 18th in London, to Eleanor (Warr) and Larry Paterson, a son, Michael, a brother for Katharine.

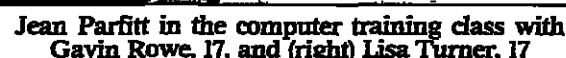
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(ston) peacefully at  
 on 19th December  
 3, after a long and  
 severe fight against  
 a. Loving and loved  
 Patrick and mother of  
 Victoria and James.  
 e Shaford Parish  
 on 4th January at  
 am. No flowers.  
 ions to Gardeners  
 Benevolent Society or  
 e Cancer Appeal c/o  
 s. 28 South Road,  
 and GL2 6NY.

**The Prince of Wales in Bristol yesterday, opening the Gatehouse Centre at Hartcliffe and Withywood estates**

**By JOHN YOUNG**

In 1985 an action group of residents, concerned about the lack of opportunities for young people to escape the cycle of deprivation, formed Hartcliffe and Withywood Ventures Ltd, and invited city



Among the projects based at the centre is a furniture recycling operation, which has assisted more than 400 community organisations and charities. Facilities include conference rooms for up to 75 delegates; a day nursery; a popular all-day restaurant and café; and ac-

So far from being subsidised, the firms occupying the offices and workshops pay, if anything, slightly above the going commercial rate. Brian McNally, the project manager, says. On average at least 200 people, frequently more, use the centre every day. About half the staff of 18 is recruited from the two estates, which also supply virtually all the trainers who, at

**The Gatehouse Centre, Bristol, is one of the winners of the 1995 Community Enterprise Awards, organised by Business in the Community and sponsored by The Times and Touche Ross.**

Mrs Evelyn Boscawen, Princess Alexandra was represented by the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Mrs Evangeline Bruce held yesterday in the Grosvenor Chapel, South Audley Street. The Rev Simon Hobbs officiated.

Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, OM, Mrs Aramis Cooper and Sir Nicholas Henderson gave readings.

The American Ambassador attended. Among others present were:

The Duke of Devonshire, the Marquess and Marchioness of Salisbury, Lord Alton of Liverpool, the Countess of Aros, Viscountess of Churchill, Viscount and Viscountess of Devonport, Lord and Lady Carrington, Lord St Albans, Lord and Lady Jellicoe, Lord and Lady Quinton, Lord Thomas of Gresham, Lord Hesketh, Lord Dowager Lady Hesketh, Lord and Lady Weldenfield, Lady Bonham-Carter, Lord and Lady de la Beche, Lord and Lady Dunsborough, Lord Dawson of Abingdon, Lord and Lady de Villiers, Lord and Lady Willmer, Lord and Lady Rosagran, Lord and Lady Fraser, the Hon Lady de Zulzeta,

Mr Arthur Daniel Passey, of  
Croydon, Surrey, left estate valued  
at £5,592.10.0.

Mr John Ingram, of Miles  
Small, of Scremerston, Berwick  
upon Tweed, Northumberland,  
owner of the Tweeddale Tiro — the  
Berwick Advertiser. Berwickshire  
Advertiser and Kelso Chronicle.  
left estate valued at £1,423.50.0.

He left £1,000 to St Peter's Parish  
Church, Scremerston, and £500 each  
to the Berwickshire and Berwick  
and Tweedmouth Old Folks Supper  
Society.

Sir Michael Trescauan Austin, 5th  
Bt, of Okhampton, Devon, late of  
Barton, Dumfriesshire. General  
Austin was the 11th and 12th Baron  
of the House of 1665-86, and Master of  
the Braes of Derwent, left estate  
valued at £417,710. net.

Vivonne Angela Fish, of London  
SW57, left estate valued at  
£1,446,461. net.

Bequests of £10,000 to the  
National Institutes of Health, and  
£10,000 to the National Cancer  
Institute, for the residue to the Royal Society of  
Chemistry, for the first seven years  
ended 1966, were used to assist  
the contributors at the society's  
annual conference in the field of  
advance knowledge in the science  
of chemistry.

TRADE: 0171 481 1982  
FAX: 0171 481 9313

[illegible]

**PATERSON** - On December 18th in London, to Eleanor (Warr) and Larry Paterson, a son, Michael, a brother for Katharine.

[illegible]

(ston) peacefully at  
 on 19th December  
 3, after a long and  
 severe fight against  
 a. Loving and loved  
 Patrick and mother of  
 Victoria and James.  
 e Shaford Parish  
 on 4th January at  
 am. No flowers.  
 ions to Gardeners  
 Benevolent Society or  
 e Cancer Appeal c/o  
 s. 28 South Road,  
 and GL2 6NY.

the Chaplain  
 of the Legislature  
 Scott Davidson, of  
 the late Episcopal  
 Church, died peace-  
 fully at his home,  
 Somerset on 14th Dec-  
 ember at 12 noon.  
 FRIESTON. On Dec-  
 12, 1905 at his home,  
 1111 1/2 St. George St.,  
 a dearly loved father of  
 and beloved and brother  
 of the late Mrs. F. J.  
 Almonde died peace-  
 fully after a long illness  
 taken place. A Mass  
 was celebrated at 10 o'clock  
 at St. Charles Church,  
 Oxford, on Thursday  
 morning, Dec. 15, 1905.  
 The Rev. Father  
 deaconess, to which  
 the remains were  
 Northbrook 56  
 Newbury, RG14 1UN.  
 HOLDEN - Michael  
 Joseph, died at his  
 home, 1111 1/2 St. George  
 St., on December 10th  
 aged 68. Address here-  
 tofore, 1111 1/2 St. George  
 St., Northbrook 56.  
 Geoff. Tony, Rector,  
 Katherine, Hilary and  
 Joseph, sons of the  
 father for many years  
 WAFPI, and the late  
 of the late Mrs. J. J.  
 of Conservation Unit D.  
 Europe.  
 Protestant and Roman  
 Catholic, Northbrook  
 56, Newbury, RG14 1UN.  
 Friday 25th December  
 at 10 o'clock, a service  
 being at Hotel N. J.  
 Donations. All friends  
 called and sympathized

aged 91,  
home, Maria Horrell, v  
of Handy, much  
mother of William  
Martha and a  
grandmother. Fu  
Friday December 25  
2:30 pm All Saints Ch  
Marston. Family fir  
only. Donations, if des  
All Saints Church.

**JENKINSON** - Sudden  
penecurity, on Tuesday  
December, Ellen (J)  
aged 89 years, of T

[illegible]

**MULLINS** - Ron. Much respected friend and respected caddy at Sunningdale Golf Club for more than fifty years. aged 85. Funeral Wednesday January 3rd at 12.30 pm St Michael's Church, London Road, Camberley. Flowers and enquiries c/o Ford Meats, 26 Frimley High Street, Camberley. tel: (01276) 251111

**19th December**, aged 92,  
peacefully in Nanyuki  
Hospital Kenya.

**NIEWIJSKI:** Michael  
buried on 16th December  
1995. Will be sadly missed.  
Funeral service by Rev. John  
mother. Funeral to take place  
on Thursday 20th December  
at 10.0 am at Winifred Church,  
Church, followed by  
committal to churchyard.  
Donations to RSPCA c/o E.  
Flinch & Sons, 153 High  
Alderley Park, Warrington,  
UK M11 1TT. Tel: (01252)  
82251.

**GODDIN:** On December 19th  
1995 peacefully at Hays  
House, Sharnbrook, North  
Sharnbrook, Nene aged 87  
years. Widow of Inspector  
John Goddin. Burial at  
South loved mother of John.  
Margaret and Robert and  
living grandchild of Ivie,  
Celia, Varyann, Emma and  
Christine. Funeral at St  
Andrew's Church, Thurston  
River, on Thursday 24th  
December 20th at 2.30 pm.  
Donations if desired to St  
Andrew's Church.

**ROBERTS - Seddons** on  
December 19th 1995 Charles  
Was formerly of Treapins.

**Dicey**  
**Burnett**  
**Seredj**  
**Coleman**  
**Fleming**  
**Kennedy**  
**Edwards**  
**Office**

**Wright**  
**Thornhill**  
**White**  
**Priest**  
**Private**  
**In**  
**1995.**

**WAARDENBURG**  
**Hammill**  
**at his**  
**home**  
**Warren**  
**Harris**  
**Waters**  
**Wednes**  
**Weekend**  
**If you**  
**in 2**  
**Hospital**

loved father of Timothy, Gay, Scilla, and Patrick, loving grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral on Friday December 29th at All Saints Church, Thurlestone. Devotion at 2 pm. Family flowers only, donations in lieu for Church of Ireland Housing Fund (This fund helps widows of the C. of I clergy) c/o J & G Perrett, 15 Duncombe Street, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7

[illegible]

**FLATSHAR**

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**TICKETS FOR SALE**  
When purchasing advertisements  
establish the face value  
full details of tickets but  
entering into any  
commitment. Most are  
tickets are subject to  
re-sale and transfer

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MISS BADON, PHILIP  
RUSSET, LIZ MARY  
THEATRE & SPORTS  
TEL: 0171 323 4  
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Sutton, Sunnyside  
Sutton, Sunnyside

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ter, N. Mance, Clayton,  
Red, All master pop. short  
are. CC's acc'd 0171 928

**W.R.U.I.** Debutants suits (1  
(50 yards) Best location

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**WANTED**

**ALL CROCODILE** skins : all  
Southern Alligators, Crocodiles, caimans  
Jamaica / milder in 0171 225 6216

**ALL MASONIC** Articles, Regalia  
Jewels, Wands etc

NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
JOHN J. BROWN	1234 E. 1st St.	Indianapolis	IN	46201
MARY K. SMITH	5678 N. 10th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46208
WILLIAM L. JONES	9012 S. 5th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46205
ELIZABETH A. WHITE	3456 W. 12th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46204
ROBERT H. BLACK	7890 E. 15th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46226
JANE D. GREEN	2345 N. 8th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46207
CHARLES E. HARRIS	6789 S. 11th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46203
SARAH F. MILLER	1012 W. 9th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46202
DAVID G. WILSON	4567 E. 14th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46225
LUCAS B. MOORE	8901 N. 7th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46206
ANGELA C. TAYLOR	1357 S. 13th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46209
JOHN P. ANDERSON	2468 W. 10th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46204
MICHAEL R. THOMAS	3579 E. 16th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46227
STEPHANIE L. MARTIN	4680 N. 9th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46207
ANTHONY J. LEE	5791 S. 12th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46203
CHRISTINA M. PERKINS	6802 W. 11th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46204
DAVID A. ROBERTS	7913 E. 17th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46228
EMILY K. WALKER	8024 N. 10th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46208
FRANK R. HENRY	9135 S. 14th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46209
GRACE S. BAKER	1046 W. 12th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46204
HENRY J. GARCIA	1157 E. 18th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46229
IDA M. COOPER	1268 N. 11th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46207
JAMES L. RICHARDS	1379 S. 15th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46209
KAREN A. MURPHY	1480 W. 13th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46204
LARRY D. STEVENSON	1591 E. 19th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46230
MARGARET E. PETERSON	1602 N. 12th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46207
NATHAN K. COLLINS	1713 S. 16th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46209
OLIVIA F. WATSON	1824 W. 14th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46204
PETER H. FLEMING	1935 E. 20th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46231
RENEE L. BARNES	2046 N. 13th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46207
SCOTT J. ROSS	2157 S. 17th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46209
TAMARA M. HENDRICKS	2268 W. 15th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46204
TERENCE A. COLEMAN	2379 E. 21st St.	Indianapolis	IN	46232
URSULA K. JONES	2480 N. 14th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46207
VICTOR L. MCGUIRE	2591 S. 18th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46209
WILLIAM F. HARRIS	2602 W. 16th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46204
XENIA M. BROWN	2713 E. 22nd St.	Indianapolis	IN	46233
YOUNG J. SMITH	2824 N. 15th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46207
ZACHARY D. WILSON	2935 S. 19th St.	Indianapolis	IN	46209







## Why the bigger the agent the better

The Consumers' Association has once again upped the big travel companies by calling for an investigation into high street travel agents who recommend holidays produced by their parent tour operators.

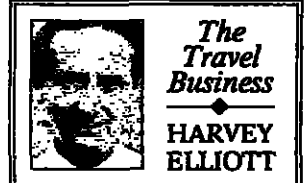
The major tour operators and travel agents have long regarded the association as an alarmist irritant which treats customers like fools who need protection from a rapacious industry.

But the smaller tour operators and some MPs disagree and, like the Consumers' Association, want to control the trend which has created a handful of large dominant groups which own their own airlines, tour operators and travel agencies.

With the peak booking season about to begin it is at least a well-timed attack — whatever the merits of the argument. According to the association, every branch of Lunn Poly mentioned its parent company when asked for advice, even though, they admit, an alternative holiday was suggested in every case.

In Going Places shops 10 per cent of inquiries were given no alternative but to choose from an Airtours brochure, owners of Going Places. This, says the association, is "alarming".

Sue Ockwell, director of the Association of Independent Travel Operators, says: "It is very clear that the public is being manipulated. If they were told when they went into a Lunn Poly shop that it is part of the Thomson group then we would have no complaint. But this is not happening and many people do not realise that they are being given advice which reflects the own-



ership of the travel agency and the tour operator rather than what may be best for them."

But that is all nonsense, according to Thomson, which owns Britannia Airways and Lunn Poly, and has almost 30 per cent of the package holiday market.

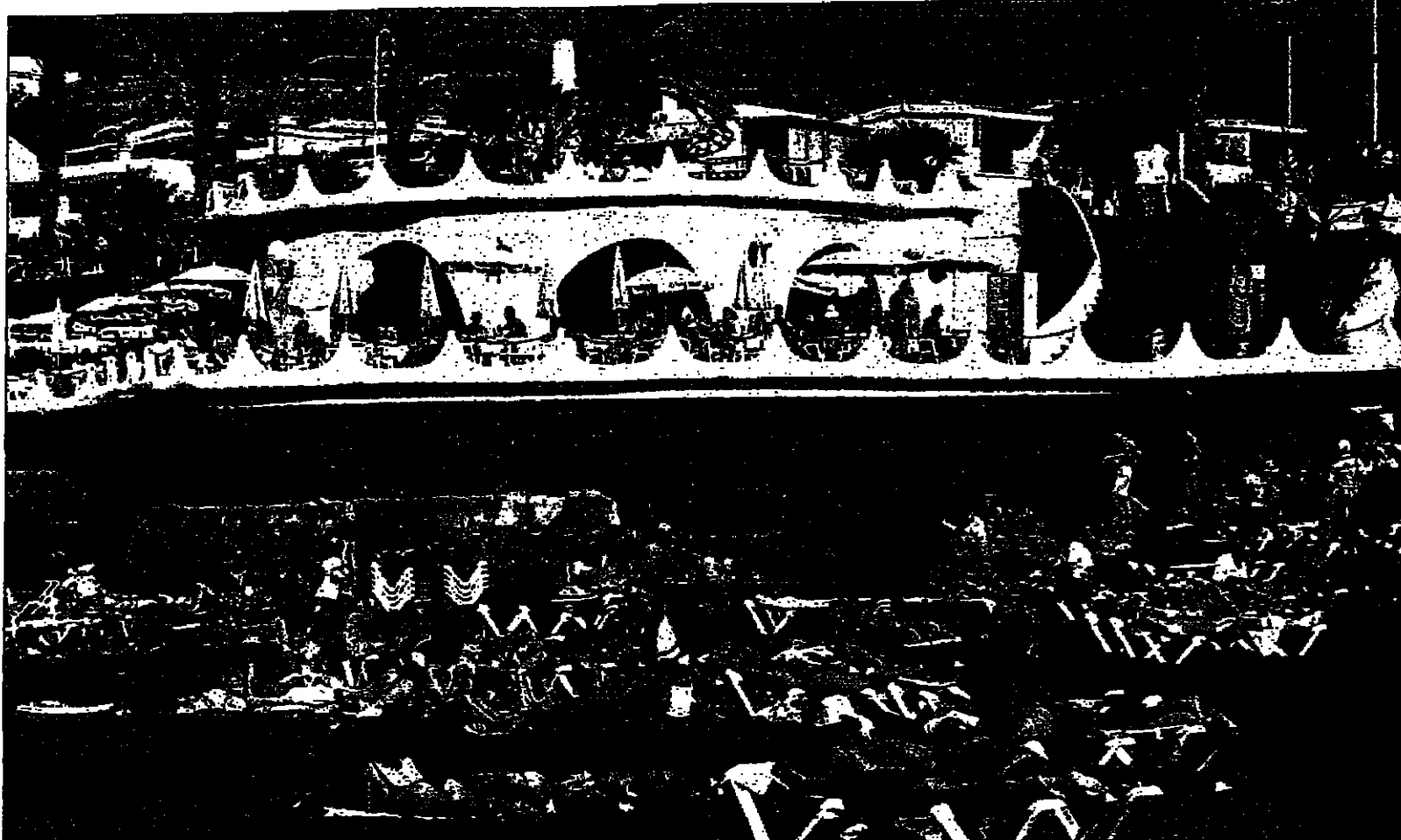
Marketing director Richard Bowden-Doyle said that their holidays were sold through 6,692 travel agencies, only 783 of which are run by Lunn Poly. And 40 per cent of all Thomson holidays are sold through small high street agencies.

He says: "AITO has lost sight of the fact that the Office of Fair Trading is there for the benefit of the consumer and not just to protect the small travel agent. You certainly can't build a successful business by ripping people off. We must be the only industry where the strong are legally obliged to protect the weak, and we would reject any suggestion that we are misleading our customers."

Big tour operators are all slowly losing market share and seeing their profits eroded as prices are driven down, which proves that competition is both fierce and effective, according to Thomson and the other giants.

The OFT is already having another look at the industry and has promised to decide in January whether it should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

It is difficult to see what the MMC could realistically recommend beyond its earlier demand for shops to display signs indicating to which group they belong. Big companies get that way by being good at what they do. Would it really help the holidaymaker to make them smaller?



Tenerife's sun-soaked attractions make it the most popular destination for the half-a-million Britons spending the Christmas holiday abroad

## 500,000 seek Christmas sun

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

### TOP CHRISTMAS DESTINATIONS

1. Tenerife
2. Costa del Sol
3. Florida
4. Costa Blanca
5. Lanzarote
6. Gran Canaria
7. Majorca
8. Italy
9. France
10. Cyprus

Source: Lunn Poly

MORE than half a million British holidaymakers will fly away tomorrow to spend Christmas under foreign skies. More Britons are turning their backs on the traditional festivities at home and taking advantage of the extended break afforded by Christmas Day falling on Monday to have ten days away.

Keith Betton, of the Association of British Travel Agents, says: "Everyone seems determined to stretch their holiday allowance to the limit. By going away on December 22 people have realised that if they are not back in their factories and offices until January 2 they will still have used up only three of their holiday days."

We are a nation of holiday-makers and with a growing number of people who, for various reasons do not have children or immediate family with whom to spend Christmas, there is now an ever increasing demand for foreign holidays in the last week of December."

Travel agents throughout the country say that there is hardly an unsold Christmas

holiday package still to be had, and airlines, ferries, coaches and trains are all fully booked until well into the new year. Overall, about 4 per cent more holidays and flights have been booked than last Christmas and ferries are reporting a massive increase in the number of passengers making their own arrangements on the Continent.

P&O European Ferries took 29,800 passengers from Dover to Calais during December last year, but this year it had already sold 38,300 tickets with a week to go before sailing. "The fundamental change this year is that the vast majority are now going by coach," says a P&O spokeswoman. "We are not entirely sure why this should be so, but it is a very noticeable trend."

Britannia Ferries has sold out completely for a round trip to Santander in Northern Spain on board the ferry *Val de Loire*. Passengers, who pay between £79 and £169, leave Portsmouth at noon on Christmas Eve, have a full Christmas dinner on board and arrive at Santander on Christmas evening. They spend the night on board and return, with more festivities on the voyage through the Bay of Biscay, on Boxing Day.

Those who have booked will be anxiously watching the weather forecast for the next few days.

Britain's biggest travel agent, Lunn Poly, says that Tenerife is the biggest selling package holiday destination this season, followed by the Costa del Sol, Florida, the Costa Blanca, Lanzarote, Gran Canaria, Majorca, Italy, France and Cyprus.

Thomson says that its holiday-makers are venturing further and further afield with many heading for Sri Lanka and the Caribbean. "All our long-haul charter flights are chock-a-block," says a spokeswoman. "Although the Canaries remain the most popular, many other more distant destinations have sold extremely well this year."

Thomson's big rival, Going Places, says that although the Christmas sunshine market is well up skidding holiday sales are down by at least 5 per cent, possibly because of a lack of early snow on the Alpine pistes. "Florida is proving particularly popular because some very good deals were made available," says a spokeswoman for Going Places.

BA Holidays puts Florida at the top of its best-selling list for Christmas followed by Barbados, Thailand, St Lucia, Kenya, Egypt, Mauritius and Australia. British Airways says that a record 126,000 passengers will fly on its services over Christmas.

Thirteen extra Boeing 757

jets, in addition to the seven daily flights between London and Belfast Aldegreave airport, have been laid on to meet the demand to Northern Ireland.

BA says that South Africa has proved the surprise runaway success of the season. Five additional Boeing 747 jumbo jets are being used on the routes to Johannesburg and Cape Town to meet demand.

Although there are no domestic flights on Christmas Day, 24 long-haul services will leave Heathrow and Gatwick, and staff have been told to ensure there is a festive atmosphere on board during the flight.

Heathrow is likely to be the busiest airport throughout the week and on Christmas Day itself — although the quietest day of the year for the airport — an estimated 45,000 passengers will still pass through the terminals.

Gatwick expects to handle 700,000 passengers over Christmas with the busiest days on Friday, December 22 and Tuesday, January 2. More than 65,000 passengers are expected on each of the two days.

Thirteen extra Boeing 757

## Snowboards sales double

By STEVE KEENAN

SNOWBOARD sales have doubled over the last year, with a subsequent rise in the number of overseas holiday bookings. Retailers say the sharp rise in snowboard popularity has seen 8,500 boards sold in the UK this season, compared to 15,000 sets of skis. But the craze does not come cheap. Prices start at £300, rising to £550 for a board and bindings.

"Sales of snowboards have doubled this year but ski sales have declined," says Simon Richardson, product manager of Second Level Sport.

The company is the sole UK distributor for Burton, the American snowboard manufacturer, the market leaders. "Our age profile of buyers is 16 to 30, with sales spread equally for each age. The market has shown increasing growth, recently growing fast from a sound foundation of interest."

A significantly higher proportion of snowboarders buy their equipment before going on holiday, while skiers are more likely to hire their equipment at the resort, adds

Mr Richardson. "A two-year-old snowboard is outmoded because we are in a phase of rapid development. Rental boards tend to be old, so people buy new stuff."

Snowboarders are now estimated to account for 10 per cent of the ski market, according to Crystal Holidays. The market leader has published a separate snowboard brochure for the first time this winter.

"It is a significant issue in the market. We are really thinking of the future and tracking the market carefully," says marketing director Paul Carter.

While the boards may prove expensive, Crystal sales of snowboard packages are averaging £298 on price as opposed to £450 for skiing holidays.

"Snowboarders are younger and tend to go for self-catering, rather than the chalets," says Mr Carter.

"But the big thing is that people are being introduced to the sport at a young age who might not necessarily have been into skiing. It is growing a fast market."

By KEVIN PILLEY

I COULD have been a contender if only I had been a senior citizen and met the minimum weight requirement. And had gone to the right school. But I had to wait for the World Santa Claus Championships from the sidelines. It could have been different if only I had received the proper education.

The first Santa Claus Games were held in Jakobshavn, Greenland. Seventeen Santas competed in traditional seasonal "disciplines" such as ho-ho-ing, tree decoration and house-breaking. The Danish Santa won the gold medal and the Briton, Fred Wilson, of Debenham's Romford groto, came fourth.

The event was organised by Peter Williams, a Briton who six months ago made an extreme career move by becoming managing director of the Arctic-based Santa Claus of Greenland Foundation. He is the man who opens the 15,000 letters sent to Santa every year. He is also the headmaster of Europe's first Santa School. He hopes to turn Greenland into a major Santa-exporting nation by offering the chance for suitable candidates to study the art of Santamanship. He claims his is the first college of further education which guarantees its graduates a job for life.

"Being Santa is not child's

## School for Santas offers job for life



Peter Williams supervises a budding Santa Claus

play. It is not an act. It's an attitude and state of mind," he says. "It is a way of life, not just a seasonal part-time job. We want students who believe in Santa and the ideals and values of caring and sharing he stands for. He is not a bloke who turns up with a big sack, dishes out some presents and then shoves off. He is a powerful force for good."

The Santa School, which has its first three-day term next spring and is now recruiting, has on its syllabus masterclasses in "Developing Your Polar Trudge" as well as workshops in story-telling, "Santa tells stories, not lies," says Mr Williams. There will also be lectures on Santa mythology, beard hygiene and reindeer lore. Successful graduates will qualify as professional ambassadors of peace and happiness. The Greenland Santa School diploma is recognised by all grotoes around the world.

I sat my entrance exam for the Santa School in the Rudolf Cafe in Nuuk. I had 30 minutes to write an essay entitled "Why I want to be Santa". Before I had finished my first sentence: "I love Custard Creams and milk even if it's got soot in it and I enjoy putting my hand down stockings," I knew I would not be part of the new intake. Mr Williams gave me his "We were looking for someone faster, older and wiser who lives by everlasting principles children can learn from" look.

Christmas is traditionally a time of giving and Mr Williams gave it to me straight: "Have you ever thought of being an elf?"

● Santa Claus of Greenland Foundation, Santa House, PO Box 401, DK 3000 Nuuk, Greenland (tel 010 299 22426/Fax 010 299 22120). Tuition costs £50. Beards and costumes are free.

play. It is not an act. It's an attitude and state of mind," he says. "It is a way of life, not just a seasonal part-time job. We want students who believe in Santa and the ideals and values of caring and sharing he stands for. He is not a bloke who turns up with a big sack, dishes out some presents and then shoves off. He is a powerful force for good."

The Santa School, which has its first three-day term next spring and is now recruiting, has on its syllabus masterclasses in "Developing Your Polar Trudge" as well as workshops in story-telling, "Santa tells stories, not lies," says Mr Williams. There will also be lectures on Santa mythology, beard hygiene and reindeer lore. Successful graduates will qualify as professional ambassadors of peace and happiness. The Greenland Santa School diploma is recognised by all grotoes around the world.

I sat my entrance exam for the Santa School in the Rudolf Cafe in Nuuk. I had 30 minutes to write an essay entitled "Why I want to be Santa". Before I had finished my first sentence: "I love Custard Creams and milk even if it's got soot in it and I enjoy putting my hand down stockings," I knew I would not be part of the new intake. Mr Williams gave me his "We were looking for someone faster, older and wiser who lives by everlasting principles children can learn from" look.

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### City breaks

SHORT breaks over Christmas in Paris, Madrid and Vienna, with departures on scheduled flights from Heathrow on Christmas Eve, are still available from Travelscene at prices ranging from £184 to £360 per person for two nights. Details: 0181-427 4445.

### Sea view

RURAL Retreats still have a few properties to let over Christmas including an east house in Kent and a tower in Devon, both for two people, and a house for 15 overlooking the sea near Port Isaac, Cornwall. Details: 01386 701177.

### Winter savers

WINTER sales have started at Thomson with savings on short breaks to many European cities in the first three months of next year. Its new CitySavers programme includes three nights in Florence for £195 and Venice for £219, both saving £106. A two-day trip to Paris is available from £89 and three nights in New York

### French leave

NEW Year's Eve at a five-day hotel in Normandy is still available as part of a two-night break with travel, leaving Portsmouth by ferry for Le Havre on December 31. The price, including dinner, breakfast and a celebratory meal, is £145 per person. Details: 01653 628662.

### Festive deals

POST-Christmas bargains are on offer from Cosmos, including two weeks in Paphos, Cyprus, departing Gatwick next Wednesday for £229 per person and a fortnight in the Algarve from Gatwick next Thursday for £169. Details: 0161-480 5799.

### Pyramid sale

EGYPT for a week, departing next Thursday, is still available from Crusader Travel. Seven nights at Luxor, Emilio or Pharoan hotels will cost £329 per person. Details: 0181-744 0474.

### Down under

NEW YEAR trips to Australia will cost less with Travel Warehouse, which is charging £639 for Japan Airlines flights to Sydney, Brisbane and Cairns via Tokyo, where a stopover is allowed. Flights to Auckland and Christchurch cost £696 between January 15 and March 15. Details: 0171-414 8808.

### BA fares cut

BRITISH AIRWAYS's current range of world offers, which must be booked by January 3 for flights before March, include Athens for £140, Lisbon £114, Oporto £114 and Valencia for £139. Details: 0181-897 4000.

### Early savings

SAS has brought back its EarlyBird flight from

Heathrow to Gothenburg, Sweden, departing at 7.40am, and is offering business-class passengers a £100 saving on the £474 fare if they return the same day. Details: 0171-734 4020.

### Kenyan caper

FLIGHTS to Nairobi, Kenya, are on offer from Quest Worldwide for £305 from Heathrow and Manchester between January 11 and the end of March. Details: 0181-547 3322.

### Fly-drive deal

AIRLINE passengers renting from Alamo at major airports in the UK, Ireland, Germany, Greece and half-a-dozen other European countries can now get a bargain rate if they pay in the UK. Inclusive charges start at £58 for two days. Details: 0800 272300.

### Simpson's for £8

THE THREE central London restaurants owned by the Savoy Group, Simpson's, Brasserie St Quentin and Grill St Quentin, are offering a two-course lunch or dinner (until 8pm) for just £8 each for up to eight people. The menus are available from January 2 and the offer lasts till the end of that month. Details: Simpson's (0171-240 6888), Brasserie (0171-589 8005) and Grill (0171-581 8377).

### Caledonian fling

EDINBURGH's five-star Caledonian Hotel has traditional Hogmanay accommodation and dinner packages available, priced at £185 and £205 per person, which include Scottish dancing and a pipar at midnight. The price includes dinner, accommodation and breakfast. Details: 0131-459 9988.

### Wizard deal

LESS traditional is the Wizard of Oz-themed new year celebration at Billesley Manor, Warwickshire. Prices start at £200 per person for two nights accommodation and dinner in the Emerald City. Details: 01789 279955.

### Private view

THE Hotel Breidenbacher Hof in Düsseldorf is offering tickets and a privately guided tour to the Egon Schiele Exhibition which opens today in the city and is the first time his collection of Austrian art is being shown in its entirety. Rates start at DM275 per person per night. Reservations through leading Hotels of the World: 0800 181123.

### Irish flavour

THE Cophorne Tara Hotel in Kensington, London, has reopened its Dublin bar with live Irish music. Details: 0171-937 7211.

### French cut hotel prices

THERE is plenty of room in French hotels, this Christmas and new year. In the wake of the French railway workers' decision to return to work, hotels are taking desperate measures to find more guests, such as cutting room prices, Rachael Jolley writes.

Normally, hotels are almost full in November and December, but Jérôme Lander, of the hotel representation company Uell, does not believe that the hotel trade can pick up for the last week of the year.

A spokesman for Eurostar said that train services have begun to get back to normal this week. Eurostar, he said, had lost thousands of passengers during the strike, and there was still confusion about travelling to France. He emphasised that trains to Paris and Brussels were now running.

## A Special Announcement

Due to variable flight loadings during January and early February we are able to present a number of arrangements at a fraction of the normal tariff for those that have the flexibility of travelling at rather short notice. However, we should warn would-be travellers that these offers are very popular and those that were offered during November sold within days of being announced, so early telephone reservations are essential.

**THE TAJ MAHAL from £295**  
Direct, fly from £295.00. Fly direct to Agra and the Taj Mahal for a week at a 3-star hotel with full facilities on a room and breakfast basis. Optional excursions are available to Old and New Delhi, Jaipur, Sikandra, the deserted city of Fatehpur Sikri, as well as the Taj Mahal itself. Agra is the ideal place to both explore and relax to escape a grey British winter.

Dates of Operation & Prices  
January 9, 16, 23 £295.00 and February 6, 13 £315.00  
Special Half Term Deal, February 20, 27 £315.00  
Single supplement £50.00

**COSTA RICA WANDERER from £395**  
7 nights from £395. Costa Rica is being so compact and varied is the ideal location in which to tour and relax. The Wanderer programme concept is simple: it includes international flights to and from San Jose, one night's pre-arrival accommodation to be followed by a series of 6 accommodation vouchers that can be redeemed at a variety of hotels and lodges throughout the country. Car hire can be obtained for approximately \$US300 per week thus making it an ideal arrangement for those that want to take advantage of our organisation yet, free to roam.

Dates of Operation & Prices  
January 11, 18, 25 £395.00  
and February 1, 8, 15 £415.00  
Single supplement £64.00



**LAKE KARIBA from £395**  
7 nights on the shores of Lake Kariba from £395.00. At the 3-star Kariba Breeze Hotel. This arrangement includes international flights and transfers to Lake Kariba for 7 nights on a room and breakfast basis. The Kariba Breeze Hotel has full facilities including swimming pool and a lovely view overlooking the lake. During your stay you may make optional visits to the various game parks, Victoria Falls, and of course a cruise on the lake to view the remarkable wildlife. Lake Kariba is a lovely spot to relax and explore.

Dates of Operation & Prices  
January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 £395.00 and February 6, 13 £415.00. Single supplement £50.00

All arrangements exclude travel insurance, airport taxes and visas if necessary (visas are not required for Costa Rica or Lake Kariba for EC nationals).

0171-616 1000  
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Our offices are open for telephone reservations weekdays 9am to 7pm and weekends 9am to 5pm. For personal calls, our office hours are 9am to 5pm weekdays and 9am to 1pm Saturdays.

## Legoland v Alton Towers

By STEVE KEENAN

LEGOLAND will undercut its theme park rival Alton Towers when it opens next year. Set in the new Windsor park, it opens on March 29, and will charge £15 for adults and £12 for children. The park is also offering £1 off for tickets booked in advance.

Alton Towers, Britain's biggest theme park, which closes during winter months, will be charging adults £17 and children £13 for next year — with a further 50p peak premium.

Legoland expects 1.4 million visitors in its first season, which finishes at the end of October. Latest figures for Britain's pay-for-parks show that in 1994 Alton Towers attracted 3.01 million visitors. Chessington World of Adventures 1.62 million and Thorpe Park 1.23 million.

But Chris Dobson, Legoland's marketing manager,



From Windsor Great Park to Windsor Legoland park

insists Windsor park will not be in direct competition with other theme parks. "We are a different market, a different product," he says. "We are a family theme park without white-knuckle rides, but with a lot of things for children aged two and upwards."

Legoland will feature seven different areas, including the Duplo Gardens, Wild Woods with pirates and a castle; Miniland and Driving School. Family members of the Lego Club will be invited to two preview days on March 16 and 17, at £10 a head for either an adult or child.

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## Queen's Bench Division

## Law Report December 21 1995

## Chancery Division

## Council cannot pay interest

**Regina v Kensington and Chelsea Royal Borough Council, Ex parte Brandt**  
[Judgment December 15]

A local authority had no power to pay or to provide for the payment of interest on housing benefit.

Mr Justice Dyson said in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing an application for judicial review by Nicholas Brandt of the refusal by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea dated November 10, 1994 of his application for the transfer of his housing benefit into some form of interest bearing account.

Mr Brandt was in dispute with his landlord, pending the outcome of legal proceedings in which the landlord claimed possession and mesne profits with interest, the local authority lawfully withheld payment of his housing benefit.

Mr Brandt requested the authority to place the money in an interest bearing account to assist should the court subsequently award interest on the sum claimed by his landlord.

Mr Justice Dyson said that there was no authority on the point.

It was one of considerable importance to local authorities responsible for the administration of housing benefit schemes.

At the heart of the application was section 11(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It was common ground that the functions of a local authority were those identified in *Hazell v Hamer-Smith and Fulham London Borough Council* [1992] 2 AC 1, 29f.

Was payment of interest prohibited by the legislation governing the administration of housing benefit schemes?

If it was prohibited, then section 11(1) could not avail Mr Brandt. There was no express provision. In his Lordship's view, however, there was an implied prohibition.

Section 5(1) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 and the regulations made thereunder

showed that Parliament intended to define the powers of the authority in relation to the administration of schemes with considerable precision. It was significant that nowhere in these detailed provisions was there any reference to interest.

His Lordship accepted that the legislature could not have intended to specify every aspect of the way in which housing benefit was administered. Thus, quite apart from section 11(1) of the 1972 Act, the authority impliedly had the power to maintain and operate banking arrangements for payment out of benefit, and do other administrative acts of the kind mentioned by Mr Luba: see *Attorney-General v Silverthick Corporation* [1932] 1 Ch 563.

The fact that the statutory provisions governing the administration of housing benefit schemes were very detailed was not of itself sufficient to exclude the implied power to do everything that could fairly be regarded as incidental to or consequential upon the powers expressly conferred by statute.

But it seemed to his Lordship that the payment of sums of money to or on behalf of claimants stood on an altogether different footing from the performance of administrative acts of the kind instanced by Mr Luba.

The regulations dealt specifically and in detail with payments to claimants. It was quite clear that it was only payment of benefit that could be made.

Administrative acts such as those mentioned by Mr Luba would undoubtedly have been regarded as common law as incidental to the powers and duties conferred by the benefit legislation.

In his Lordship's judgment, payment of interest on retained payments would not have been regarded as such.

The special status of the authority's power to make payments was underlined by section 135 and 137 of the 1992 Act and the authority's evidence that retention of money into a special account had potentially considerable adverse financial consequences.

The power was not impliedly

authorised by the Act. Accordingly, even if the exercise of the power did otherwise fall within section 11(1) of the 1972 Act, it would be ultra vires the authority to exercise it, because that section was subject to the housing benefit legislation.

The relevant function of the purposes of the application of the section 11(1) of the 1972 Act was the function of administering a housing benefit scheme in accordance with the relevant statutory provisions. They were concerned with the payment of housing benefit in the form of rent allowances and not with the payment of anything else.

The purpose underlying housing benefit schemes is to assist the poorest members of the community did not fall into debt with their landlords.

That, however, was quite different from saying that the relevant function for the purposes of section 11(1) was doing whatever was necessary to prevent claimants from becoming indebted to their landlords and in consequence facing the threat of eviction.

The question, therefore, was whether payment of interest on benefit withheld facilitated or was conducive or incidental to the payment of housing benefit in the form of rent allowances. In his Lordship's judgment, the answer was clearly no.

Payment of interest did not assist the payment of benefit. It might assist the claimant if a certain contingency arose, namely that it was determined by a court or agreed between landlord and tenant that interest should be paid to the landlord on the arrears of rent.

Section 11(1) did not come into play unless the power facilitated or was conducive or incidental to the discharge of the function. It was insufficient to show that the power might benefit the claimant for whose benefit the function was discharged.

Mr Luba advanced a particular argument based on regulation 95(1) of the Housing Benefit (General) Regulations 1987 No 1971. An authority which had

decided it was in the overriding interest of the claimant not to make direct payment to the landlord was under a duty to withhold payment and retain it until it was no longer in the overriding interest of the claimant not to make the payment.

Mr Luba submitted that the money must be retained somewhere and it must be retained in a manner and place that advanced rather than harmed the claimant's overriding interest, that is, an interest bearing account. His Lordship accepted that premise but not the conclusion.

First, his Lordship could not accept that the words "shall be retained by the authority" in regulation 95(3) meant anything more than that the money shall be withheld and not paid. They did not contemplate that the money would necessarily be in the hands of the authority at the time of the withholding, still less that it would be in some identifiable and designated account.

Second, and in any event, it did not follow from the fact that the authority was expressly required to have regard to the claimant's overriding interest when the question of direct payment to his landlord arose, that it was, impliedly, required to have regard to the interest of the claimant when deciding whether, and if so where and on what terms, to set aside a sum equivalent to the payment withheld.

His Lordship concluded therefore that section 11(1) did not avail Mr Brandt.

The award of statutory interest was in the discretion of the court. In a case where rent was tendered to a landlord by a tenant who was in receipt of benefit, and where as a result benefit was withheld, and the tenant did not have the means to pay interest on the arrears, his Lordship would be surprised if a court would grant statutory interest to the landlord in the resultant proceedings. As between landlord and tenant, it would surely be unjust to order payment of interest.

Solicitors: Wainwright & Cummins; Mr Alun Phillips, Kensington.

## Disqualification of directors

**Practice Direction (Companies Court: Directors' disqualification)**

Where disqualification proceedings against a director of a company could be settled by agreement between the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and the Official Receiver, and the respondent director, insistence on proceedings being brought before the court resulted in unnecessary delay, a waste of court time and wasted costs. Accordingly, amendments to the Companies Act 1985 should be introduced to enable such results to be avoided.

The Vice-Chancellor so stated in an introductory note to a new Practice Direction.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR said the number of applications for a disqualification order of an unfit company director under the Companies Act 1985 (No 202) and the Companies Act 1985 (No 202) and the Companies Act 1985 (No 202) had steadily grown and had undergone a surge in the last 12 months.

Disqualification orders should come into force at the earliest moment in the public interest and so that respondent directors should have the uncertainty as to their position resolved as soon as possible. Therefore delay in the processing of disqualification applications was a matter of legitimate concern.

The overall effect of the new direction would be to give the court greater control over the conduct of those proceedings so as to enable them to be dealt with as expeditiously as possible.

It addressed in particular the problem of cases which were not set down for trial where they ought to have been and cases where the parties had taken no steps to obtain a hearing date for a case that had been set down.

The new direction made adjustment also to the developing procedure, initiated by Mr Justice Ferris in *In re Caversham Construction Co Ltd* [1994] 1 WLR 172 for enabling applications where there was no dispute about the material facts and no dispute about the appropriate period of disqualification to be dealt with in a summary fashion. That procedure would, he hoped, enable the court to dispose of these applications more speedily than had hitherto been possible.

His Lordship did question, however, the need for there to be a court hearing at all in cases where the Secretary of State, and the Official Receiver, and the respondent director were in agreement as to the essential facts and as to the length of the appropriate disqualification period. Court time should be reserved for cases where there was a dispute between the parties which had to be resolved.

Under the 1986 Act there was no alternative but for all applications for disqualification, no matter what state of agreement there might be between the parties, to be processed through the court machinery. That was unnecessary and avoidable.

His Lordship would recommend, accordingly, that the Secretary of State give consideration to the possibility of introducing amending legislation under which an agreement between a director and the Secretary of State or the Official Receiver to the disqualification period to be applied to the director be given the same effect as a court order imposing the disqualification period.

If the director was willing to bar himself from acting as a director for a period that the Secretary of State regarded as being sufficient to protect the public interest, he did not see why time and money should be expended by insistence on bringing the case before the court.

For all these reasons his Lordship recommended amending legislation. For the present, he handed down the new Practice Direction in which he said:

1 This Practice Direction is to be read in conjunction with the Insolvency Companies (Disqualification of Unfit Directors) Proceedings Rules 1987 No 202 and the Companies Act 1985 (No 202) and the Companies Act 1985 (No 202).

2 When the summons (which had to be an originating summons) was issued, the applicant would be given a date for the first hearing of the summons. The rules provided that that date was to be not less than eight weeks from the date of issue of the summons.

3 All interlocutory directions should be sought at the first hearing of the summons so that the application could be determined at the earliest possible date. The parties should take all such steps as they respectively could to avoid successive directions hearings.

4 If at the first hearing the registrar adjourned the case for further consideration under rule 7(4), he would so far as possible give all the directions for trial including where rule 7(4) applied a direction as to whether the matter was to be heard by a judge or a registrar. That direction might at any time be varied by the court either on application or of its own motion. If the court varied the direction in the absence of all the parties, notice would be given to the parties.

5 The documents mentioned in paragraphs 10 and 11 above must be delivered to the court not less than two clear days before the day fixed for the hearing. If the case was to be heard by a judge but the name of the judge was not known, or the judge was a deputy judge, those documents must be delivered to the Chancery Clerk of the Lists.

6 If the name of the judge, other than a deputy judge, was known, those documents had to be delivered to the judge's clerk. If the case was to be heard by a registrar, the documents had to be delivered to Room 405, Thomas More Building, Royal Courts of Justice, Copies must be provided to the other party so far as possible when they were delivered to the court.

7 Section 5.3 of the Chancery Guide applied to bundles of documents for use at the trial.

8 If parties decided to make an application under the procedure adopted in *Re Caversham Construction Co Ltd* [1994] 1 WLR 172, they should inform the court immediately and obtain a date for the hearing of the application.

9 Whenever a *Caversham* application was made, the applicant must: (a) except in simple cases where the circumstances did not merit it or when the court otherwise directed, submit a written statement

attestating to fix a trial date. In the event of non-compliance with paragraph (a) above, the court would fix a date for trial and give notice of the date to the parties.

10 The parties had to provide an estimate of the length of trial to the court when required to do so, the court could act on the estimate of the other party.

11 As stated in section 5.2 of the Chancery Guide, the parties had to inform the court immediately of any material change in an estimate.

12 The provisions of section 3.10(3) to (7) of the Chancery Guide applied to PTRs in disqualification cases where the PTR was to be heard by a judge or a registrar.

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How I fared with  
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to the mind  
behind Holmes



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Cricket visionary  
still seeking to  
spread the word

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# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY DECEMBER 21 1995

## Lang 'misled' Parliament over funding of failed firm

BY ROBERT MILLER

THE President of the Board of Trade, Ian Lang, has been accused of giving "seriously misleading" answers to a Labour MP. The MP had tabled a series of Parliamentary questions on how £850,000 of taxpayers' money was given to a failed West Country computer firm when the Department was aware that one of the directors had a troubled financial background.

Rom Data Corporation, of Falmouth, which is being investigated by the Serious Fraud Office and Devon and Cornwall police, was given the DTI regional assis-

stance grant even though John Dawson, a former Conservative city councillor in Bath, has a history of bad debts in Britain and the Caribbean. Mr Dawson left the UK in the early 1980s, before a bankruptcy hearing into the collapse of John Dawson Motor (Holdings), with business and personal debts of nearly £2 million. Another Rom Data director, Brad Shephard, an American, was declared bankrupt at Truro Crown and County Court in October this year.

This week, the Trade Department told David Jamieson, Labour MP for Plymouth Devonport, that an internal inquiry had shown that officials responsible for apprais-

ing Rom Data's grant application "were not aware that Mr John Dawson, who was involved with the Rom Data Corporation Ltd, was a discharged bankrupt even though that information was held by the Insolvency Service".

But letters to another MP on DTI headed paper, copies of which have been seen by *The Times*, show that in January 1992 Baroness Denton, then Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Consumer Affairs and Small Firms, was aware of Mr Dawson's financial past. She wrote on January 12, 1992: "The issue you raise about the Department assisting projects undertaken

by applicants with a 'past record of some concern' is straightforward in this particular instance. It is a matter of public record that Mr Dawson is not a majority shareholder in Rom Data Corporation and indeed it was this company that was the applicant for Regional Selective Assistance and subsequently received an offer from my Department. Similarly, Mr Dawson does not have much involvement in the day to day operations of the Falmouth facilities, preferring to channel his efforts towards running the US end of his successful business operation. I can assure you that all applications for Regional Selective Assis-

tance are rigorously appraised by officials within this Department."

A second letter, written on April 2, 1993, said: "Mr Dawson may have made a commercial mistake in his past. But that is long ago and the fact remains that his company has created some 150 jobs in a Development Area with a current unemployment rate of 14.2 per cent."

When Rom Data collapsed, former employees were owed more than £200,000 in wages. Mr Jamieson said last night: "Clearly, I have been given some very misleading answers by DTI ministers." The DTI denied that it had misled Mr Jamieson.

### BUSINESS TODAY

#### STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3613.7	(+36.8)
Yield	3.85%	
FT-SE All Share	1769.2	(+15.42)
Nikkei	19468.28	(+308.10)
New York		
Dow Jones	5137.71	(+27.82)*
S&P Composite	619.39	(+1.56)*

#### US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	110 1/4%	(110 1/4%)
Yield	8.08%	(8.12%)

#### LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	6 1/2%	(6 1/2%)
Libor long gilt	110%	(110%)
Future (Dec)		

#### STERLING

New York	1.5375*	(1.5420)
London		
\$	1.5369	(1.5425)
DM	2.2154	(2.2176)
FF	7.6170	(7.6286)
Sfr	1.7774	(1.7733)
Yen	156.80	(157.09)
£ Index	82.9	(82.9)

#### US DOLLAR

London		
DM	1.4415*	(1.4430)
FF	4.9646*	(4.9665)
Sfr	1.1582*	(1.1580)
Yen	101.95*	(102.00)
\$ Index	94.1	(94.0)

#### Tokyo close Yen 102.05

#### NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Mar)	\$17.45	(\$17.40)
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#### GOLD

London close	\$387.90	(\$388.00)
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\* denotes midday trading price

## Hanson plans £1.5bn US selloff

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

HANSON, the Anglo-American industrial conglomerate, took a big step towards reducing its huge debt pile yesterday by announcing plans to sell two US subsidiaries, Suburban Propane and Cavenham Forest Industries, for £1.5 billion.

Gearing at the company is currently around 130 per cent after the £2.5 billion acquisition of Eastern Group, the electricity company, earlier this year.

Following its results at the beginning of the month, Hanson announced that it was looking to raise about £2 billion through disposals, including £450 million from the sale of its shares in the National Grid Company.

Derek Bonham, chief executive, said: "These disposals are part of our programme to concentrate on fewer, larger activities. Our strategy is directed towards the growth and development of our chemical, consumer, energy and building interests."

Hanson is aiming to raise £1 billion from a break-up sale of Cavenham, its timber subsidiary, although it did not rule out a sale to a single buyer. Cavenham owns and manages around 1.75 million acres of timber in Oregon, Washington, Louisiana and Mississippi as well as operating five sawmills.

Cavenham was purchased in 1990 as part of a \$1.3 billion asset swap deal with Sir James Goldsmith, who acquired Hanson's stake in the gold mining company Newmont. In 1995, the subsidiary reported a 19 per cent drop in profits to £95 million.

Suburban Propane will be disposed of for around £500 million via a public offer of 62 per cent of the equity interest and a \$425 million debt issue. Hanson said that it will retain a 38 per cent interest in the floated off business.

The company was acquired as part of Quantum, the petrochemical company, pur-

chased for \$3.25 billion by Hanson in 1993. Suburban serves around 800,000 customers in 39 states and is the third largest retail and wholesale distributor of propane gas in the US.

Analysts have long expected its disposal as it has never fitted in with Hanson's other interests and has consistently underperformed owing to a spate of warm winters. Last year, profits fell by 27 per cent to £41 million.

The disposals had been expected by the City and shares rose just 1.5p to 186.5p by close of trading yesterday. Hanson has been under pressure, along with other conglomerates such as BTR, which earlier this week announced the sale of Dunlop Slazenger, to hivel off its non-core interests.

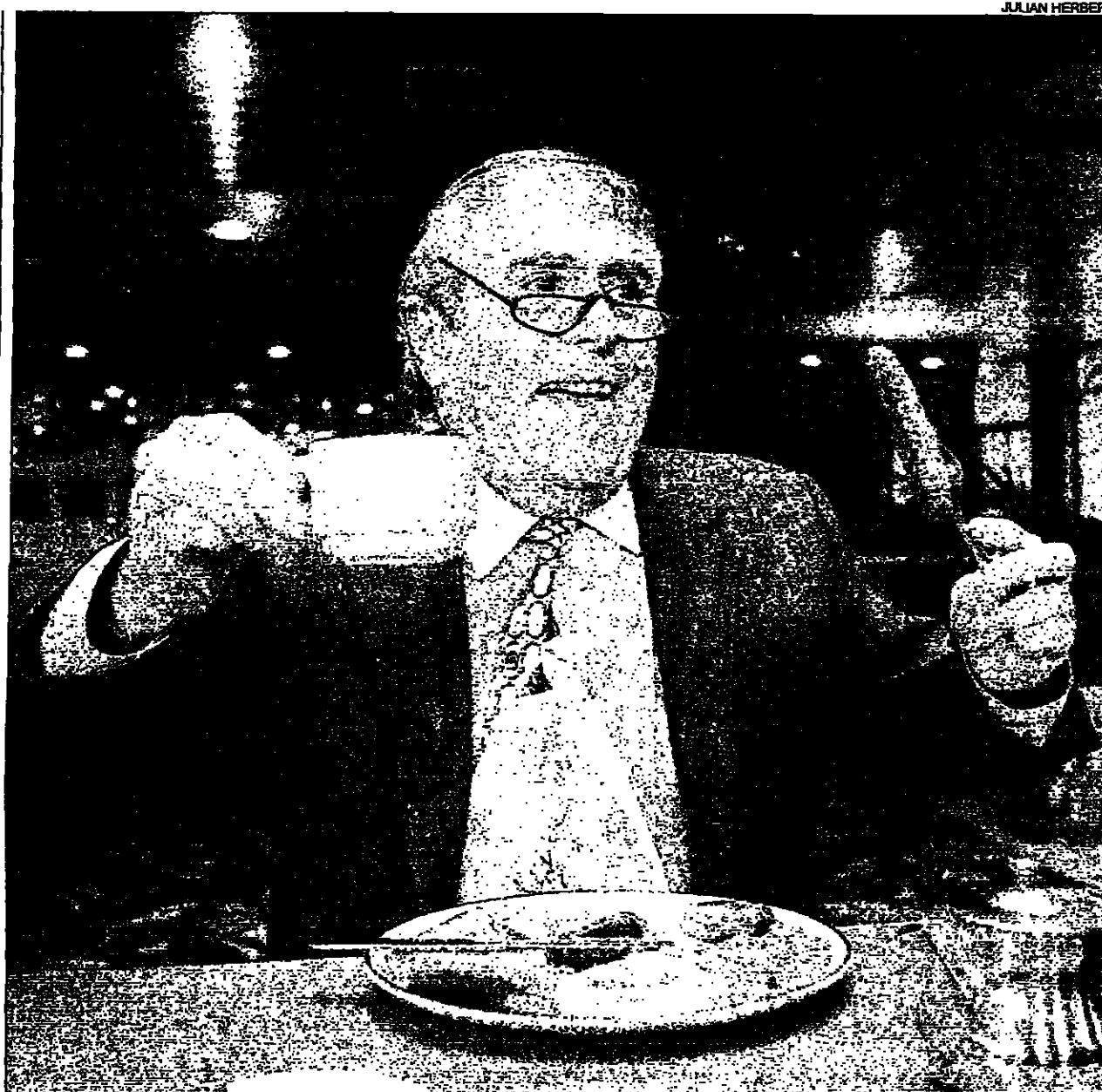
Hanson's share price has fallen by a quarter this year and has underperformed the market by 50 per cent since the beginning of the decade. Its full-year profits for 1995 fell from £1.37 million to £1.27 million and the company froze its second-half dividend payment at 3p, stating at the time that higher capital investment was the immediate priority.

Hanson started making disposals in 1994 with the £160 million demerger of Beazer, its housebuilding subsidiary. Earlier this year the conglomerate completed the flotation of US Industries, its smaller US companies. At the time this reduced gearing from 38 per cent to 35 per cent but that was before the Eastern acquisition.

US Industries assumed around £890 million of Hanson debt and Hanson received about £855 million from the spinoff.

Seven Seas, the vitamins division, has been mooted as another possible disposal, although the company has always been regarded as a personal favourite of Lord Hanson.

Times, page 28



Albert Roux, the chef, samples a motorway meal. Welcome Break, owned by Forte, wants him to improve its food

## Forte sells Travelodge hotel chain

BY ERIC REGULY

FORTE, under takeover threat from Granada, yesterday sold its struggling Travelodge budget hotel chain in the US for £114 million and said it did not expect to make any other significant disposals in the next few weeks.

The company also warned shareholders that selling or demerging its interest in the Savoy Hotel group would not be quick or easy. Forte owns 68 per cent of the Savoy, but lacks voting control.

Keith Hamill, Forte's finance director, said demerging the Savoy by distributing the shares to existing Forte shareholders "is the right industrial solution". But doing so would probably create an expensive advance corporation tax liability. He said Thorn-EMIT's plans to demerge have been held up by similar difficulties.

Selling the equity outright also has its problems, with bidders unlikely to offer a high price for a non-control stake.

Forte had been trying to sell the US Travelodges since last spring. The buyer was Hospitality Franchise Systems, the largest US hotels franchiser.

Forte said it was still trying to sell its White Hart hotels chain in Britain. Talks with Oriol Leisure and Apex Partners collapsed this week.

Pennington, page 27

## Mortgage lending surges

BANKS and building societies gave the housing market a festive tonic yesterday by reporting a big increase in monthly mortgage lending (Robert Miller writes).

The Building Societies Association (BSA) said that net mortgage advances rose by £570 million in November to £865 million while net new commitments increased to £3.2 billion against £2.9 million in October. Figures from the British Bankers' Association showed that mortgage lending was up by £677 million last month.

Adrian Coles, director-general of the BSA, said: "With the Budget out of the way and tax cuts in the pipeline, prospects for a modest recovery in the mortgage market in 1996 are good."

## Supervision chief retires from Bank

BY PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BRIAN QUINN, the Bank of England executive director responsible for supervision, is to retire in February, the Prime Minister's office has confirmed.

Mr Quinn, who was much criticised after the collapse of Barings in February, will be succeeded by Michael Foot, the Bank's deputy director for supervision and surveillance.

The Bank is sticking to a football theme among its non-executive directors. Sir Roland Smith, chairman of Manchester United, who is retiring as a director of the Court of the Bank, is to be succeeded by Sir John Hall, who chairs Newcastle United and has extensive business interests in northeast England.

Sir Christopher Hogg, the

chairman of Courtaulds, is also retiring as a non-executive director in February, to be replaced by John Neill, chief executive of Unipart.

A Bank spokesman insisted that Mr Quinn's retirement, at 59, was not linked to the Barings affair. He said that Mr Quinn had told the court of directors more than a year ago that he did not wish his appointment to be extended.

Mervyn King, the executive director responsible for the monetary stability activities of the Bank, is reappointed for a further four-year term.

Oliver Page, head of the wholesale markets supervision division, is promoted to succeed Mr Foot as deputy director for supervision and surveillance.

## Job insecurity greater than last Christmas

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

JOB insecurity is greater than it was last Christmas, even though unemployment is falling, according to new figures today. Government ministers say the continuing fall in unemployment — down 226,000 on a year ago — is leading to more confidence in employment. But in a new survey, as many as 85 per cent of the employees sampled feel that jobs in their workplace are no more secure than last Christmas.

The survey, by the Manufacturing Science and Finance trade union, shows that while 11 per cent of employees believe that jobs are now more secure, 42 per cent report no change, and 43 per cent say jobs are less secure than a year ago.

London, the South East, Wales and Scotland all report above-

average levels of job insecurity, according to the quarterly survey of more than 360 private and public-sector workplaces, employing almost 120,000 workers.

Roger Lyons, MSF general secretary, says: "People are going into the Christmas period not knowing if they will have a job in the new year. Ebenezer Scrooge remains the number one role model for Britain's bosses. This survey shows that the bad treatment of employees is reaching epidemic proportions."

A fifth of employees say employers' treatment of their workforces is now worse than three months ago, and 42 per cent say it is poor or very poor. Financial services are seen as the worst, with 58 per cent citing treatment as poor or very poor.

## Solicitor sentenced to ten years for fraud

BY ROBERT MILLER

A FORMER solicitor who masterminded a fraud in which £8 million was stolen from more than 1,000 beneficiaries was yesterday sent to prison for ten years by Maidstone Crown Court.

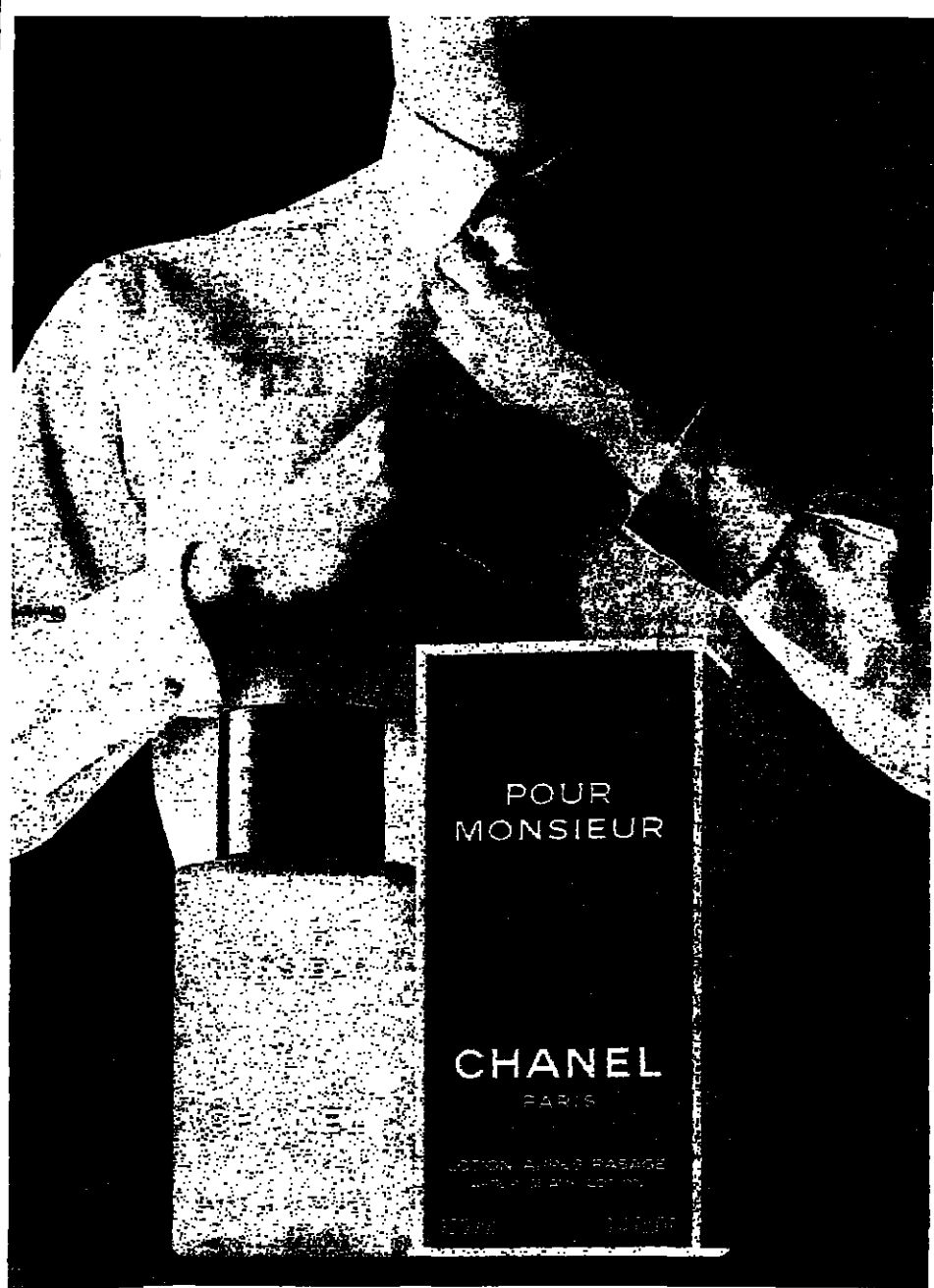
Sentencing Graham Maurice Durnford Ford, 52, a senior partner of Durnford Ford, which crashed in May 1992, Judge Croft, QC, said: "The case against you was overwhelming, but at no stage have I identified one aspect of remorse in you."

The successful prosecution was bought by the Serious Fraud Office with Sussex police.

SFO investigators said that Ford, who pleaded guilty to ten specimen counts of theft of money taken from the estates of deceased clients, lived a lavish lifestyle on the proceeds of his

crime, spending more than £870,000. Before the firm in Hastings, East Sussex, went under, Ford, who was struck off the solicitors roll by the Law Society, transferred his house, on which he spent £250,000 in improvements, to his wife's name. Judge Croft said: "Transferring your house was quite obviously to cheat those from whom you stole... You cheated everyone who came your way and you built a dunghill the better for you to crow upon. You cheated the dead."

Ford's co-accused, William Digby Bew, 33, who was found guilty on four charges of furnishing false information, was sentenced to 15 months in prison, suspended for one year. Judge Croft told Bew: "You were exposed to one of the most devious conmen I have ever come across."



POUR MONSIEUR  
ELEGANCE IS TIMELESS

# CHANEL



# Managers win Great Western and LTS auctions

By JONATHAN PRYNN  
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MANAGEMENT buyout teams from the Great Western and LTS Rail train franchises threw off the public-sector shackles of British Rail yesterday when they were awarded the right to operate their own privatised train services.

Both teams won the auctions of the passenger franchises against stiff competition. They were the second and third franchises to be let under rail privatisation of the 25 that make up the BR passenger network. The first, South West Trains, was signed earlier in the week.

The successful private bidders will

take over running of the services in the new year.

Great Western, which operates InterCity services between Paddington station in London and the West country, the Cotswolds and South Wales, will receive an average of £44.8 million of subsidy a year over the seven to ten year life of the franchise. This compares with BR's subsidy support for the franchise of £47.3 million in the current year.

The management team at LTS Rail, which operates commuter services in east London and south Essex, will be paid an average of £26.1 million by Roger Salmon, the franchising director, compared with the BR support of £28 million this

year. The franchise will run for either seven or 15 years, depending on the level of new investment made by the franchise operators.

The deals were both backed by 31, with additional equity funding provided for LTS Rail by the Gresham Trust venture capital firm and for Great Western by FirstBus, Britain's second biggest bus company.

They involve an innovative finance package reflecting the short life-spans of the franchises and the lack of assets owned by the private operators. Trains are leased from specialist rolling stock companies and the track and stations are owned by Railtrack. The deals involve the accumulation of "cash pools" from

profits over the course of the franchises, which will be distributed to the equity participants once they have run their course. Management and employees, many of whom have made substantial personal contributions to the financing, will effectively be entitled to the cash that is left once their equity partners have taken their cut.

The leaders of both franchise teams said their liberation from the state sector would give them the freedom to introduce a wide range of innovations to improve their services. Brian Scott, managing director of Great Western, which is 51 per cent owned by management and employees, promised that all exist-

ing train services would continue to be operated through the course of the franchise with additional services planned, such as an hourly shuttle to Bristol and Cardiff.

Improvements on LTS Rail, once dubbed the "miserable line" because of its appalling record for delays and cancellations, will mainly centre on replacing its obsolete rolling stock.

Three-quarters of its trains date back to the 1960s and will be replaced "in the soonest possible time", said Chris Kitchen-Smith, the managing director of the management bid vehicle, Enterprise Rail. He guaranteed that at least 95 per cent of the services run on the line by British Rail would continue.

## Small firms deny jobs will go from wage move

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

SMALL businesses do not believe that a statutory minimum wage would lead them to cut jobs — and more than half do not feel that a national minimum would have any effect on their business.

The findings of the latest survey among small firms by the Federation of Small Business, which also suggests that small companies are still suffering from what they see as the weak state of the economy, runs strongly counter to Government ministers' claims that the Labour party's plans for a national minimum wage will hit jobs.

The Government insists that Labour's planned statutory minimum could lead to the loss of more than two million jobs as employees and unions use the establishment of a national minimum to restore pay differentials.

Though Labour maintains that it will not set a minimum rate in advance of the general election and will only do so after consulting with industry, business organisations such as the Confederation of British Industry claim it could add up to £4.5 billion to industry's costs. But in its

latest bi-monthly opinion survey published today, the Federation of Small Business suggests that the impact of a national minimum on small companies — which generate the majority of new jobs — could be minimal.

Fifty-three per cent of the sample of FSB members surveyed said a statutory minimum would have no effect on their businesses, though 38 per cent said it would be likely to lead to them reducing the number of hours people worked. But only 8 per cent said that the introduction of a statutory minimum would force them to stop employing people altogether.

Jacqueline Jaynes, FSB employment affairs chairman, said: "We are not surprised that over 50 per cent of our members surveyed stated that a minimum wage would have no effect on their business, given the fact that many do not currently employ staff." She said the issue of a statutory minimum "needs closer analysis."

On the overall economy, the federation's survey — taken before last week's cut in interest rates — says small businesses are continuing to suffer from the weak economy.

Sixty-two per cent say that economic weakness is the main barrier to their growth. A fifth attribute the lack of growth to the poor availability of affordable finance, 16 per cent say that even if more finance were available, confidence is now so low that they would not want to expand their business.

Ian Hanford, FSB national policy group chairman, says: "We have been warning about the weakness of the economy for some time and this month's cut in bank base rates, although welcome, will have no significant effect on the 'feel-good' factor."

He adds: "Our worry now is that 1996 will be another year of poor economic growth which will especially hit small businesses."

## Six join Lloyd's as 2,067 disappear

By SARAH BAGNALL

ONLY six new individual names have signed to join Lloyd's of London next year, compared with 2,067 who have opted, or been forced, to pull out of underwriting in the insurance market, Lloyd's disclosed yesterday.

Of the departures, 1,089 names resigned, while the others were either names who did not have adequate funding to allow them to continue underwriting, names who decided not to underwrite this year and names who have died.

The latest departures add to the flood of names who have left the market in the past eight years. The total number of individual names underwriting for 1996 is 12,811, well below the current year's level of 14,884 and a far cry from the 32,433 Lloyd's boasted at its peak in 1988.

The drop in the number of individual names has resulted in a decline in funds made available to Lloyd's to insure risks. Lloyd's capacity has fallen from £10.2 billion in 1995 to £9.85 billion for next year. Of this, individual members have contributed £6.8 billion (£7.8 billion).

The amount of capacity provided by corporate capital names accounts for 31 per cent, or £3 billion, of the market's capacity in 1996, compared with £2.4 billion in 1995 and is nearly double the level of 1994.

The rise reflects the entry of 25 new corporate members, which has swelled the number to 165. David Rowland, chairman, said: "The figures clearly demonstrate the resilience and confidence of both the traditional membership and the established and new corporate members. We take all this as a strong vote of confidence in Lloyd's at a time of radical change."

Agents at risk, page 29



Anthony Mason, William Rodgers and Paul Gregory with 3i's Andrew Garside and Tim Simpson

## Big Green Parcel Machine unwrapped in £31m buyout

By MARTIN BARROW, DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

MANAGERS of Tuffnells Parcels Express, the parcel delivery company based in Sheffield, have acquired their company for nearly £31 million.

The buyout team is led by managing director Paul Gregory, a former solicitor who joined Tuffnells in 1985. He is supported by Anthony Mason, operations director, and William Rogers, finance director. The buyout vehicle has been named Big Green Parcel Machine.

Tuffnells is being acquired from Transport Development Group (TDG) and Ducros Services Rapides, who each held a 50 per cent interest. Funding for the buyout was jointly negotiated and arranged by 3i, the venture

capital group, and Philidrew Ventures, which together provided almost £15 million of equity and mezzanine finance.

TDG has subscribed £800,000 for a 5 per cent interest in Big Green. Under the joint ownership of TDG and Ducros Tuffnells has increased profits significantly. Last year, the business earned £3.81 million before tax. Net assets were £8.94 million at the end of last December. TDG will use the disposal proceeds to support the growth of continuing businesses in consumer and industrial logistics and hire. Last month, the company paid £6.4 million for LPH, a plant hire business, to strengthen Cox, its existing plant hire operation.

## Britain's non-EU trade gap halved

By JANET BUSH  
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S trade deficit with countries outside the European Union more than halved in November, reflecting record exports and a drop in imports. The deficit totalled £496 million, down from £1.18 billion in October.

The Central Statistical Office said that half of the improvement was due to a one-off export of a warship to Saudi Arabia, but even the underlying deficit dropped sharply.

Stripping out oil and erratic items such as ships, the shortfall dropped to £525 million from £982 million in October. Exports jumped to a record high of £5.78 billion, a 9 per cent rise from the previous month, while imports fell 3 per cent to £5.27 billion.

Adam Cole, of James Capel, said that the fall in imports suggested that manufacturers are no longer building up stock levels, a massive phenomenon throughout the year so far.

Other figures yesterday showed that, outside the mortgage sector, bank lending was depressed. The British Bankers' Association said that bank lending to the private sector increased by only £680 million, well down on the October figure of £2.1 billion and an average of £1.75 billion in the last six months.

In addition, Bank of England figures showed that M4 lending was subdued at £3.4 billion, down from £5.4 billion in October.

Despite this weak figure, total M4 money supply increased at an annual rate of 9.3 per cent in November, up from 8.7 per cent in October and above the Government's 3 to 9 per cent monitoring range.

Analysts said that this was largely because the Bank was behind in its funding of the public sector borrowing requirement (which boosts M4) and that this should be temporary.

They said that this factor should not deter more rate cuts in the spring if the economy continues to be weak.

The economic data left the gilt market unmoved. A recovery in US Treasury bonds later helped the March gilt future to rise 1/32 to 110.

## Electricity Pool calls for extensive testing

FURTHER fears that the introduction of full competition to the energy market in 1998 will hit delays and cost obstacles were revealed yesterday by the Electricity Pool. The Pool, which sets power prices and organises payment procedures, disclosed a warning it has sent to Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator. In a summary of its blueprint for 1998, which is currently being considered by the regulator, the Pool says: "It is unlikely that the trading systems will be sufficiently tested to enable their use in live market trials ahead of April 1998."

The document calls for thorough testing of all systems to avoid the administrative confusion that arose in 1994, when the power market was opened to competition for larger users. The potential for problems will be all the greater in 1998, with competition running throughout the domestic and industrial market. The Pool urged the Office of Electricity Regulation to "set out a clear strategy for the trialling programme to ensure that customers and industry do not suffer similar problems to those encountered in 1994". With the regulator soon to rule on how the costs of the new trading systems will be recovered, the Pool said the bill will be at least £320 million. Electricity companies are lobbying that they should not have to bear the cost.

## Hoechst to cut 8,000 jobs

HOECHST, the German chemicals company, plans a reorganisation and consolidation of its global pharmaceutical business. Hoechst Marion Roussel, with the loss of 8,000 jobs and the closure of more than half of its 77 drug factories, including five plants in North America. A research facility in Swindon will also be closed. The action will cost \$800 million. About 1,400 jobs will go in Germany. The company expects to save \$800 million annually from 1997 through the integration of marketing, administration, research and production.

## BCCI compensation

A LUXEMBOURG court has given its approval to a \$1.8 billion compensation payment to the creditors of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), removing the final hurdle and allowing a first payment to be made in the first half of next year. An estimated 100,000 creditors worldwide, 35,000 of them in the UK, hope to receive a payment of at least 20p in the pound in May or June next year. It will be the first payment since BCCI was closed by international banking regulators in July 1991.

## Co-operative expands

THE Co-operative Bank is creating 425 jobs with the opening of a second telephone banking centre. It will be based at The Pyramid in Stockport, a landmark office building south of Manchester. The Co-op's Armchair Banking service is already the UK's largest phone banking operation and the new centre is to cope with increasing demand. Terry Thomas, managing director, said: "We will take six million incoming calls this year and predict that this number will more than double in the next four years."

## USDC cash incentive

USDC, the £100 million international capital growth investment trust managed by GT, is to offer its major shareholders a cash incentive to back a reorganisation plan after a prolonged period of underperformance. Born out of the old US Debenture Corporation trust, which was partially utilised in 1988, USDC is to change its investment strategy to create a new UK income growth investment trust and double the yield at a stroke. The stock market reacted favourably and marked the shares up 14p to 267p.

## Rodime in debt talks

RODIME, the London-listed American disk drive company with manufacturing facilities in Scotland, has entered talks with bankers aimed at restructuring its share capital and debts. The move follows a US court defeat in September for Rodime's patent claim against Quantum, a rival disk drive maker, which jeopardised future revenue. Yesterday, the company reported a pre-tax loss of \$4.12 million for the year to September 30, against a \$7 million loss previously. Losses per share were 3.14 cents (5.04 cents). There is again no dividend.

## CALA issues warning

SHARES in CALA fell 24p to 87p after the housebuilder warned investors that profits for the year to June 30 1996 would not meet expectations. Sales reservations were low, particularly in the South East, and the company was obliged to make greater use of sales incentives and price reductions, which had an adverse impact on margins. The board's best estimate was that profits would be little changed from last year's level of £4.1 million before tax and an exceptional land sale profit. Directors expect to maintain the total dividend at 3.2p.

## PolyGram pays \$62m for Samuel Goldwyn library

By MARTIN BARROW

POLYGRAM, the music and entertainment group that dismayed shareholders with a profit warning on Tuesday, yesterday announced the \$62 million purchase of the Samuel Goldwyn film and television library.

The library comprises more than 850 theatrical films, including recent releases such as the Oscar-winning *The Madness of King George*, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Henry V*. The library also holds a

long-term licence, recently extended, to 75 classic films, including *Wuthering Heights*, *Gyps and Dolls*, and *Best Years of Our Lives*. PolyGram will also own 700 episodes from television series ranging from the original *Flower to American Gladiators*, a syndicated athletic competition.

The acquisition does not include Samuel Goldwyn's other interests, which include a chain of theatres, projects in development and domestic and foreign

distribution operations. Samuel Goldwyn retains liability for its corporate debt.

The film and television library will form part of PolyGram Filmed Entertainment, which this year acquired ITC Entertainment Group's film and television catalogue and worldwide television distribution operations. It also owns Interscope Communications, Island Pictures, Propaganda Films and UK-based Working Title Films.



The *Madness of King George* is among films in the library PolyGram has acquired

## Daily Mail buys Pathe

By OUR CITY STAFF

DAILY MAIL & General Trust, the newspaper group that has set up Harmsworth Broadcasting, has bought British Pathe from a private investor for an undisclosed sum.

British Pathe owns the Pathe News archive, which contains almost 3,000 hours of old newsreel shot between 1896 and 1970. British Pathe also supplies footage around the world, produces its own television and video programmes and makes joint productions with the BBC.

Sir David English, the chairman of Harmsworth Broadcasting, said: "1996 marks the 100th birthday of the Daily Mail and the 100th birthday of British Pathe. Bringing these two organisations together for the next century is a further indication of this newspaper group's deep commitment to the multimedia future."

Robert Jackson and Chris Davis, joint managing directors of British Pathe, have renewed their service contracts and will expand the business with increased emphasis on international television production and video publishing. Previous owners of the Pathe library include Thorn EMI and Alan Bond.

## Clinton vetoes proportional liability law

By ROBERT BRUCE

BILL CLINTON stunned the American accounting profession by failing to support proposed legislation which would have enshrined the principle of proportional liability.

Despite signs that he would be supportive of the Bill, which aimed to outlaw the practice of "frivolous" lawsuits, President Clinton vetoed the legislation.

Mike Cook, chairman of Deloitte & Touche, said he was "very disappointed" at the decision. He called the move "misguided" and said that US accounting firms would do all they could to override the veto in the next few days.

The legislation would have brought to an end the practice, seen as endemic in America, of lawyers taking out "strike suits" against growing companies which falter. Companies are then urged to provide a swift payout to the professional plaintiffs rather than face the ruinous cost of going to court. The US accounting profession has fought hard to change the law so that, in any action, the accountants bear proportional liability for genuine damages, rather than bearing the whole burden regardless of wrongdoing.

The proposed law would



Clinton: surprise decision

also have had a knock-on effect in the UK, where a commission has been set up to look into the possibility of changing accountants' liability from the current joint and several basis to that of proportional liability. That process is estimated to take at least five years.

In America, the President's actions are certain to further alienate the US accounting profession. Mr Cook said: "Maybe we should be fighting for a Republican president, who would be more responsive to business rather than plaintiffs' bar."

## Chief of Kay's Food quits

CHRIS BALL has resigned as chief executive of Kay's Food Group, one of the crop of new issue disasters of last year. Mr Ball's departure comes ten months after he was brought in to help restore the flagging fortunes of the cooked meats and catering group.

Mr Ball, who was chief executive at Hazlewood Foods until last year, stays on the Kay's board as non-executive chairman. The company said his resignation followed the sale of the meat processing operation. The shares stayed at 1 1/2p.

## TOURIST RATES

Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.17	2.01
Belgium Sfr	16.85	15.16
Canada \$	44.89	44.59
Denmark Kr	2.229	2.089
France F	0.748	0.691
Germany DM	0.28	0.27
Finland Mk	7.29	6.49
France F	6.04	5.39
Greenland Kr	2.28	2.17
Hong Kong \$	388.00	383.00
India Ru	12.24	11.54
Israel Sh	5.220	0.94
Italy Lira	2595.00	2410.00
Japan Yen	171.20	156.30
Malta M	0.682	0.627
Netherlands Gld	2.644	2.414
New Zealand \$	2.50	2.28
Norway Kr	10.41	9.81
Portugal Esc	244.00	228.50
Spain Ptas	166.50	163.00
Sweden Kr	10.85	10.05
Switzerland Fr	1.92	1.78
Turkey Lira	166.7	153.2
USA \$	1.936	1.596

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Accountancy, page 30



□ Backing both ends of the Forte bid □ British Steel down home in Alabama □ No question of delay for unit trusts

## MAM's tricky double act

□ THERE is a long and honourable tradition in the City of stitching up both sides of a takeover bid. But no one is quite sure just what Carol Galley at Mercury Asset Management is up to at Forte/Granada.

MAM, with just short of 14 per cent of both companies, was always going to be a key player. The normal way of playing both sides off against each other is to buy the target, on the assumption of a higher offer, while going short in the bidder and so making a turn on any further falls as the need to thrash around for further cash and underwriting forces the price lower.

But MAM has been buying small amounts of both companies. Some of this has been by various independent funds under the Mercury umbrella, acting on their own, but there is a suspicion of a concerted policy.

Conspiracy theorists have it that MAM, while quite naturally buying Forte on hopes of a higher offer, is trying to support Granada's share price and so lend encouragement to just such a move — the lower Granada's shares fall, and they have already slumped from £7 to 630p, the more difficult this becomes.

Probably not. MAM will benefit if Granada fails to bid higher and so loses, which it almost certainly would, because the shares would rebound by as

much as a pound. Not only would towering debt and the uncertainty over whether Gerry Robinson can run the enlarged group go away, there have been other encouraging developments for Granada, such as last week's change in media ownership rules, that have been missed.

Unfortunately, received wisdom has it, MAM's gains would be matched by a collapse in the Forte share price. But again, probably not. Forte has made a sufficiently good fist of showing how greatly improved things would be in future — out of the Savoy, yesterday's disposal of an admittedly lousy terms of the woefully underperforming Travelodge business — that the price fall might not be that steep.

The betting still remains that Granada will come back with a higher offer by the January 9 deadline. It will then be down to the institutions — and the weird and wonderful Council of Forte.

One of the founding principles of the Council was the furtherance of temperance, since sensibly dropped in favour of looking after the investors. It is now an apparently random

selection of nobles and would seem to have as much to do with modern corporate governance as Albert Roux does with a Wellcome Break motorway café — but then, look at Mr Roux's latest little earner.

The High Court judgment allows the Council, which has yet to show its hand, to block even a higher bid. The way would then be open for the mother and father of all commercial legal actions, to the delectation of lawyers up and down the land. But it would not be in the interests of shareholders, and one hopes the Council will view any higher offer on its merits.

### The price of steel

□ BRITISH STEEL has been doing its best to force the Irish steel industry out of business, at the cost of jobs in rural Ireland, because state aid is wrong. Can this be the same British Steel now helping build a new plant in Alabama with the help of \$250 million of soft State loans and further tax breaks?

### PENNINGTON



Strange to say, it is. This might be pragmatic, taking advantage of whatever is on offer in the States while ensuring a competitive market closer to home. Alternatively, it might look like corporate hypocrisy. It depends if you are a shareholder in British Steel, a soon-to-be-unemployed Irish steel worker, or one in America facing the same fate once the plant in Decatur, Alabama, is open.

British Steel is a quarter of a consortium along with Sumitomo of Japan and local partner LTV. Critics of the plant say 4,000 jobs in Cleveland, Ohio, will go if it is built.

This oddly mirrors British Steel's own complaints about Irish government aid for the

Haulbowline plant in Co Cork currently being bought by an Indian company. The Indians insist that deal needs £17 million of state loans written off and another £10 million provided, which suggests they have learnt a few negotiating tips from the Koreans. British Steel had claimed this would jeopardise up to 1,000 jobs in the UK.

A transcript of a hearing into the consortium's plans in Alabama makes fascinating reading, not least because of the obvious discomfiture of its chief executive over the matter of state aid. Any comment on a widely-circulated figure of \$85 million in tax breaks would be premature until future profits from the plant are known, he says.

There will be a maximum of \$250 million in the form of bond financing from the Industrial Development Board of Decatur, Alabama. But it will have to be paid back, of course — by the plant once it is operating, not by any of the partners.

British Steel makes the point that the Irish aid is illegal under European legislation, while the Alabama incentives are avail-

able to all potential investors. True, but it is not a distinction that will mean much to those unemployed steel workers.

### A matter of trusts

□ THE rearguard action by the Association of Investment Trust Companies in seeking a delay on the introduction of new cash and cost disclosure rules is a disservice to the millions of investors who have backed the sector with their money.

No one ever suggested that introducing the key disclosure rules was going to be a picnic. Just ask the life offices and independent financial advisers who have had to jump through far more onerous disclosure hoops. The AITC was given an indication of the way in which the Personal Investment Authority was minded to act back in October 1994.

Its concerns were duly noted and some alterations to the proposed rules were made. The genuine trusts have nothing to fear from the new disclosure

regime. But in recent years many new investment groups have created highly complex and expensive share structures and marketed these newcomers at huge expense.

These costs, which shareholders have to bear at the end of the day, have not always been revealed. The PIA is right to stand up for the entitlement of private investors to know how much the company in which they put their hard-earned cash is keeping for itself and how much is being invested in the underlying trust.

Indeed the watchdog should go further, by making an example of those trusts that do not comply with the PIA timetable.

### Water pressure

□ HAD Ian Byatt's splendid proposals for huge fines on those water companies failing to provide the stuff been in place last year, they would have cost one of the most culpable, Yorkshire Water — well, precisely nothing, claims the company. In truth, there would be compensation for low pressure and for business users. The effects on the industry, however, would be limited. But note how Professor Byatt has slipped in one of his ideas fixes, metering. All must suffer hosepipe bans — except for metered households prepared to pay for the extra water.

## RTZ clears final hurdle to clinch mining merger

By COLIN CAMPBELL AND RACHEL BRIDGE

THE world's biggest mining group — the union of RTZ and CRA — was born yesterday after shareholders in both groups and on opposite sides of the world voted overwhelmingly in favour of uniting their two businesses.

The proposed merger yesterday of CRA in Australia with its British parent, RTZ, had been threatened by hurdles placed in its path by the Australian Government. However, at the eleventh hour, the Australian authorities agreed to lift the two conditions it had imposed on the deal.

Sir Derek Birkin, RTZ chairman, welcomed the shareholders' decision, saying: "We are delighted that

both RTZ and CRA shareholders have grasped the opportunity to participate together in a global enterprise with enhanced potential for profitable growth."

John Uhrig, CRA chairman, said: "The merger provides a platform for fast-track growth internationally. Our shareholders are gaining an interest in a mining group with diversified global assets and a well-balanced commodity portfolio."

Almost 99 per cent of the votes cast by shareholders in Australia supported the \$27 billion merger with RTZ, which will create the largest mining company in the world.

In what is being seen as a major triumph for RTZ, Ralph

Willis, Federal Treasurer, agreed to drop his demands that at least one third of the board of the merged group be Australian and that CRA be given control of the merged group's Latin American operations. In return, RTZ has agreed to reduce its stake in CRA from 49 per cent to 39 per cent over the next ten years.

Mr Willis said: "The agreement will ensure that CRA remains Australian and achieves its full potential as a world class mining house. The (Australian) Government places significant importance on the wider involvement in world economic activity of Australia's mining companies."

However, Australian mining analysts pointed out that RTZ had always intended to reduce its stake in CRA over the next few years through equity raisings to fund future acquisitions.

David Walker, director of stockbrokers ABN Amro in Melbourne, said: "The Government thinks they've done a good deal, but they haven't understood what they've done. They think they have maintained their rage and have given the appearance of holding on to the farm. In reality, they have played right into RTZ's hands. RTZ has made it clear that it is looking to take advantage of opportunities in the region, and CRA shares are undoubtedly going to be the currency of any acquisition."

A spokesman for CRA said: "We appreciate the constructive flexibility that the Government has shown. It is an agreement that both RTZ and CRA are happy with."

Mr Uhrig, who will become deputy chairman of RTZ, said: "Far from confusing shareholders by the novelty of the dual-listed company concept in Australia, the global breadth and logic of CRA uniting with RTZ seems to have captured the imagination of our shareholders."

Under the proposed dual-listed companies structure, RTZ and CRA will retain their separate shareholders and existing share listings but will combine their businesses into one international enterprise with common boards and unified management.

CRA's shares ended the day up 38 cents at \$21.70 on the Australian Stock Exchange. In London, RTZ shares were unchanged at 930p.



Peter Wiegand said the group intended to expand its product range to reduce its exposure to weather changes

### Claremont trims forecast

By SARAH BAGNALL

CLAREMONT GARMENTS, the clothing manufacturer, yesterday followed in the footsteps of two of its larger rivals by reining in market expectations of its full-year profits.

The clothing manufacturer of Peterlee, County Durham, supplies more than 90 per cent of its output to Marks and Spencer. It said full-year profits were expected to be similar to last year's level of £15 million. The news prompted analysts to cut their forecasts from about £17 million.

The shares, which have fallen in the past few months, remained unchanged at 270p. Peter Wiegand, chairman, said profits had been hit by a combination of "the mild autumn weather and fragile consumer confidence".

The extremely mild autumn affected sales of wool coats, of which Claremont is the biggest supplier. Mr Wiegand said that, in order to reduce the group's exposure to weather changes, it intended to expand its product range. "We want to make raincoats as well as wool coats, for example," he said. The process of moving into new lines, such as supplying M&S with dressing gowns, nighties and girls' casualwear, had already started, he added.

Tempos, page 28

### Investment trusts lose battle to delay disclosure rules

By ROBERT MILLER

A LEADING City watchdog has refused to grant the £50 billion investment trust movement a delay in introducing key cash disclosure rules for investors (see Pennington, this page).

The Association of Investment Trust Companies (AITC), whose 315 member trusts account for more than 90 per cent of the sector, has applied for a six-month delay in implementing the disclosure rules which are due to be published next month and take effect from July 1.

The AITC wants the enforcement date for the new rules, which are similar to those in force for life and pensions policies and show in cash terms how much of each investment is swallowed up in commission and other costs, to be put back to January 1, 1997. The Personal Investment Authority, the regulator for firms that sell direct to the public, insists that the investment trust industry has been aware of the new disclosure rules since the first discussion document was published in October 1994. A senior PIA source indicated last night that it would not back down and that investment trusts must obey the new rules.

Ernest Fenton, director-general of the AITC, said: "We have no problem with the

rules but it seems a bit crazy and unreasonable to introduce them in such a hurry. A lot of work still needs to be done." The Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds said it had no problem with the new disclosure rules nor the PIA's timetable.

Investment trusts have al-

ways used their low-cost charging structure as a marketing tool and this is true of many of the old traditional trusts such as Foreign & Colonial. However, many new launches in recent years have introduced complicated share structures and used huge marketing budgets.

### US allows Glaxo to sell Zantac 75

By ERIC REGULY

GLAXO WELLCOME has won regulatory approval in America to sell an over-the-counter version of Zantac, the ulcer treatment that has been the world's best-selling prescription medicine since the late 1980s.

The introduction of Zantac 75, as it is called, will open up a new market for Glaxo. The company estimates that the US sales of over-the-counter treatments for heartburn, acid indigestion and the like are close to \$1.5 billion a year. Glaxo shares surged after the announcement, then settled back to close at 886p, up 6p.

Glaxo will sell Zantac 75 through its joint venture with Warner-Lambert, the American drugs group. The two companies will share the profits and any further development costs equally. Glaxo will also receive a sales royalty.

Glaxo and Warner-Lambert said they expect Zantac 75 to be as successful in America as it has been in Britain, where it has captured about half the market for non-prescription ulcer treatments since March. Tagamet, produced by Smith-Kline Beecham, is one of Zantac 75's main competitors.

Zantac 75 has the same make-up as Zantac, but is sold in lower doses. In the US, its introduction will be accompanied by national radio, television and print campaigns.

In another development, Glaxo has received regulatory clearance in the US market Nimbex, an agent used in general anaesthesia.

### Inchcape stands by flotation plans for Bain Hogg

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

INCHCAPE has acted to remove uncertainty over its plans for Bain Hogg, its international insurance broking arm. It says it remains committed to a flotation "in due course".

The statement followed speculation that it had received approaches from Aon, Alexander & Alexander and a management buyout team.

However, a spokesman for the company, chaired by Sir David Plastow, said a stock market listing was still 18 months to two years away. He said: "It really depends on market conditions at the time. At the moment stock market ratings for insurance brokers are on the depressed side and sentiment would have to change."

He said that Inchcape had received "less than five" offers, but the prices were not right. The spokesman added that Bain Hogg, which was created by the merger of Hogg Group with Bain Clarkson in April 1994, was performing well. He said: "We are pleased with the way that the merger has gone and delighted with the way management is running the business."

Inchcape paid £176.6 mil-

lion for Hogg Group last year. Chris Hitchens, insurance analyst at UBS, said that since then, the value of insurance brokers has fallen as the market has taken the view that the pick-up in insurance premiums is some way off.

He said the market value of Bain Hogg would be around £170 million to £200 million. This compares with £350 million to £400 million that Inchcape is rumoured to have been seeking for the business.



Plastow: speculation

## BAT embroiled in \$1bn lawsuit

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

THE state of Massachusetts has launched a \$1 billion lawsuit against BAT Industries and Brown & Williamson, its US subsidiary, as well as several other leading tobacco groups in a claim to cover the medical costs of treating smokers.

The suit is a further blow to the US tobacco industry, which is being hit by legal disputes with government agencies, the media and individuals. Four other states have launched similar actions against the companies, which include Philip Morris, RJ Reynolds,

Lorillard Tobacco and Liggett Group. With the latest suit, the tobacco industry now faces claims from state governments and individuals running into several billions of dollars. Although it is fighting back with counter-suits, insiders believe that substantial payments in out-of-court settlements are likely.

The growing wave of criticism has also led the Food and Drug Administration to press for the regulation of cigarettes as drugs, a move the tobacco companies are fighting tooth and nail.

Massachusetts claims to spend about \$200 million a year of taxpayers' money on treating tobacco-related

health problems. It also accuses the companies of misleading the public by denying that cigarettes cause cancer and are addictive and by denying that they manipulate nicotine levels in cigarettes. These claims are particularly damaging to Brown & Williamson, which is currently involved in a high-profile court case after allegations by a former executive that it suppressed research showing the harmful effects of tobacco.

The company has managed to stop a television documentary in which Jeffrey Wigand, former vice-president for research, allegedly claimed that B&W abandoned plans to develop a safe

cigarette. He is also understood to have accused the company of suppressing information about the addictiveness of tobacco.

B&W is suing Mr Wigand for breaking a confidentiality agreement, but it and other companies are bracing themselves for further embarrassing evidence likely to be put forward by Mr Wigand in court. He is appearing as a witness in several of the cases being brought by states.

Philip Morris is also embroiled in a dispute over a leaked report by a senior executive that likens nicotine to a drug and describes cigarettes as a "nicotine delivery system".

## Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct

### NOTICE OF INTEREST RATE VARIATION

The following rates for mortgages provided by Bank of Scotland, Mortgages Direct will apply as from 20th December 1995 for loans not yet drawn and from 1st February 1996 for existing borrowers.

Bank of Scotland  
Mortgages Direct Variable Rate  
7.99% per annum.

Bank of Scotland  
Mortgages Direct Preferential Rate  
6.99% per annum.

  
BANK OF SCOTLAND  
MORTGAGES DIRECT  
0800 810 810



STOCK MARKET

PHILIP PANGALOS

# Shares power back above 3,600 mark

A STRONG recovery in New York combined with bid speculation and healthy rises for selective stocks helped shares in London to power back above the 3,600 level.

Equities started on a firmer footing after an overnight recovery on Wall Street in the wake of the US Federal Reserve's move to cut the Fed funds rate by a quarter point. A mixed set of domestic economic data had little impact on shares, but Wall Street's strong start and optimism that a resolution to the US Budget impasse is nearer further bolstered sentiment in late London trade.

The FTSE 100 index ended near its best levels, rising 36.3 points to 3,613.7. Volume, boosted by speculative buying and end of year book-squaring, reached 894 million shares.

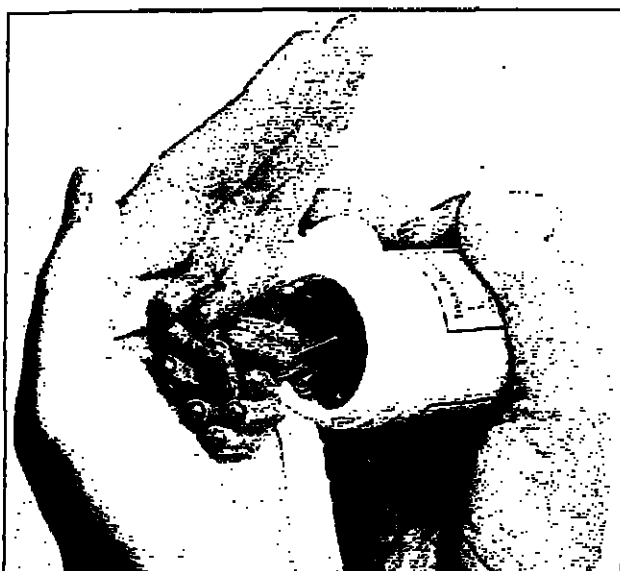
British Gas continued its recovery, advancing another 10½p to 250p, on heavy volume of 36 million shares, giving a two-day gain of 21p, as the cold spell and a high gas price in America combined with renewed speculation about a possible bid from Shell, up 11p to 845p, or BP, 10p stronger at 529p.

In contrast to Tuesday, international dollar-related stocks were back in favour, with ICI up 25p to 758p, GEC 11½p stronger to 328½p and General Accident, additionally boosted by a recovery in US bonds, rising 38p to 651p. American support and a Lehman Brothers recommendation helped Vodafone Group add 12½p to 223½p, making it the day's best-performing FTSE stock as volume reached 9.9 million shares.

The pharmaceutical sector was also in the spotlight. Glaxo Wellcome rose to 899p, before settling at 889p, up 8p, on volume of 6.8 million shares, after it received approval from the US Food and Drug Administration for an over-the-counter version of Zantac, its ulcer treatment.

Zantac is already the group's best selling prescription medicine, but analysts expected the news and will not be changing their forecasts.

They expect Glaxo to encounter some competition in the US from Merck's Pepcid and SmithKline Beecham's Tagamet, the first two OTC heartburn drugs that were introduced into the US market earlier this year. Glaxo Wellcome also received FDA clearance to market Nimbec.



The pharmaceutical sector was in the spotlight yesterday

Elsewhere in the sector, SmithKline Beecham added 7p to 671p and Zeneca 4p to £12.22, while Anagen, the automated immunoassay systems specialist, jumped 19p to 70p after the FDA granted clearance for a new assay to measure testosterone.

National Power, which completed an earnings-enhancing share buyback on

the bus company, advanced 22p to 315p as it continued to celebrate winning the South West trains franchise. Richard Hannah, of UBS, has reiterated his buy recommendation and upgraded his pre-tax profits forecast by an underlying £8 million, including a £7 million restructuring provision, to £55 million for the year to April 1997. The

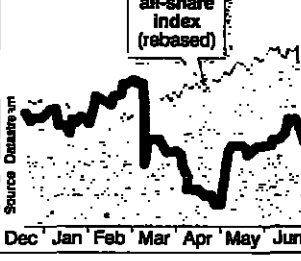
following year's profit estimate is raised by an underlying £16 million to £75 million. A stock overhang, said to involve 10 million shares, saw Tesco slide 5½p to 285½p, on volume of 13.7 million shares, but Asda Group rose 4½p to 109½p, on volume of 16.5 million shares as some sizeable buyers emerged.

Among banks, SBC sell advice saw Barclays fall 9p to

Tuesday, was squeezed 18p higher to 447p, while demand for the partly-paid shares saw them add 14p to 154p. PowerGen gained 6p to 530p in the hope that it may follow a similar course.

British Airways climbed 4p to 467p, buoyed after USAir, its US associate, told analysts that its 1995 earnings were likely to exceed the high end of current forecasts. Stagecoach,

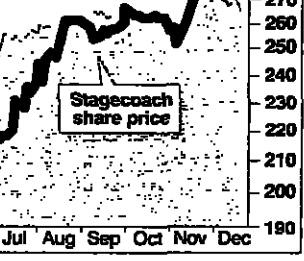
STAGECOACH: PROFIT UPGRADES FOLLOW RAIL FRANCHISE WIN



following year's profit estimate is raised by an underlying £16 million to £75 million. A stock overhang, said to involve 10 million shares, saw Tesco slide 5½p to 285½p, on volume of 13.7 million shares, but Asda Group rose 4½p to 109½p, on volume of 16.5 million shares as some sizeable buyers emerged.

Among banks, SBC sell advice saw Barclays fall 9p to

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742p, while SBC buy advice helped NatWest firm 3p to 652p. HSBC, which owns Midland, added 17½p to 908½p after overnight rises on the Hong Kong market.

BAT Industries gained 10p to 554p in spite of news that BAT and Brown & Williamson, its US subsidiary, are among six tobacco industry giants targeted in a \$1 billion lawsuit filed by Massachusetts state government.

Enterprise Oil was 11p higher to 389p on news of a significant oil discovery in the Danish sector of the North Sea. It said preliminary estimates indicated this might be the largest Danish oil field since the Skjold field in 1977.

It was the turn of Cala, the housebuilding and commercial property group, to issue a profits warning. The shares fell 24p to 87p as analysts downgraded their forecasts after Cala said that a weak housing market would hit profits. Credit Lyonnais Laing cut its profit forecast for the year to June 1996 from £7 million to £4.1 million.

Caverdale Group, the motor dealer, eased 4p to 11½p in spite of stake-building by Murnoo Investments, a company controlled by Abdul lah Hassan al-Rostamani and Abdul Wahed al-Rostamani, two brothers who have motor and banking interests in the United Arab Emirates. In a move that raised £1.68 million for Caverdale, the brothers acquired 12 million shares at 14p, lifting their stake to 9.5 per cent.

Crown Products Group, the leisure products company, had a good first day after restocking on the Alternative Investment Market following the completion of two acquisitions and a private placing. The shares ended at 57p, compared with a pre-suspension price of 45p.

GILT-EDGED: The market failed to hold on to early gains inspired by a rise in US Treasuries after the cut in American rates. The March long gilt future ended seven ticks higher at £110, on volume of 27,000 contracts traded. Among conventional stocks, shorts gained about £1, while longer-dated issues rose by up to £1, and index-linked by up to £1.

NEW YORK: Wall Street shares remained buoyed at midday by the rate cut. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 27.82 points to 5,137.71.

## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	5137.71 (+27.82)
S&P Composite	613.89 (+1.96)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	19445.59 (+308.10)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	9677.86 (+172.08)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	490.61 (+8.10)
Sydney:	
ASX	2198.50 (+16.70)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2262.07 (+26.45)
Singapore:	
Strait Times	2227.17 (+99.85)
Brussels:	
General	6271.54 (+18.20)
Paris:	
CAC-40	1851.20 (+20.99)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	702.60 (+9.10)
London:	
FT 30	3613.7 (+36.3)
FT 100	3613.7 (+36.3)
FT-SE Mid 250	3980.1 (+22.7)
FT-SE 100	17952.4 (+16.6)
FT-SE Europe 100	1463.89 (+14.4)
FT A-All-Share	1769.2 (+15.4)
FT Non Financials	1967.55 (+17.9)
FT Financials	1143.2 (+0.01)
FT Govt Secs	95.65 (+0.12)
Bargains	274.0
SEAQ Volume	894.0m
USM (Daucom)	187.11 (+0.20)
USM	1.5380 (+0.0059)
German Mark	2.2196 (+0.0028)
Exchange Index	82.9 (same)
Bank of England official doc (4pm)	
ESCU	1.8000
ESCU	1.8000
RPI	149.8 Nov (3.1%) Jan 1997-100
RPIX	149.8 Nov (2.9%) Jan 1997-100

## RECENT ISSUES

CMG (290)	326	-
Cash Converters Int	24	-
Century Inns	119	-
Com de Par Fin	510	-
Cornworth (150)	151	-
Cox Insurance	110	-
Crown Products	57	-
Dmatak	81	-
East Surrey NV	448	-
Finch Tech Trs (100)	124	-
Gardiner (1)	154	-
Gearhouse Gp (202)	202	-
Jasmin	83	-
Manx & Orseas	25	-
Martin Curr Jap	98½	+2
Martin Curr Jap Wst	37	+2
National Grid (204)	200½	+1½
Pepside Theraps (200)	229	-
Polymasc Pharms	127	-
Revelation Picc	100	-
Rushmore Wynne	3½	-
Trocadero	47	-
Vievin	130	-
Wilmington	66	-

## RIGHTS ISSUES

Onlue Hse n/p (tr10p)	1½	-
Melrose n/p (34)	6	+1½
Konspur n/p (3)	4	-
TBI n/p (50)	3	-

## MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Anagen	76p (+19p)
Filtronic Com	433p (+38p)
Stagecoach	315p (+22p)
Gen Accident	661p (+28p)
Scotia	758p (+19p)
Booker	850p (+15p)
Enterprise	389p (+11p)
FALLS:	
Ediold Prc	115p (-17p)
MAID	213p (-10p)
Rolmo	475p (-15p)
Mitel	406p (-8p)
Barclays	742p (-9p)
Robeco	450p (-15p)

Closing Prices Page 32

## TEMPUS

# Buses make good trains

EVERY little boy wants to own a railway, but few dads were prepared to pay for such a costly toy. As with all the privatisations deemed to be "difficult" to sell, the Government has played it safe. Fearing a dearth of plausible candidates and an embarrassing defeat, the franchise director has given the new operators every financial reason to invest.

There are no precedents on which to value such a business, but, on the basis of some bare figures issued yesterday, Stagecoach has snapped up another cash-generative operation that could make a very handsome profit in a couple of years.

For the private sector, the key attraction of owning a passenger rail franchise is to get your hands on the cash flow. Much of that comes as pre-payments for season tickets, and analysts reckon that Stagecoach will inherit some £48

million of cash when it takes over the South West Trains (SWT) franchise, providing a very useful reduction in the bus company's gearing. Unlike the Great Western consortium, which is spending £30 million on new rolling stock, Stagecoach has made few commitments to invest in the infrastructure of the network. A guaranteed income from a monopoly rail franchise, low investment levels and a £55 million subsidy from the Government all add up to huge positive cash flow. Stagecoach should also make a profit by cutting costs and manipulating the fare structure. Only 47 per cent of revenue from SWT will be regulated. There are forecasts of an £12 million contribution from SWT in 1998, and, on the figures released yesterday, the main risk will be Labour Party line that the franchisees were given a free ride.

neighbouring competitors seeking to expand their holdings. Unfortunately for Hanson, timber prices have eased after two years of sharp increases, with a 14 per cent fall in southern lumber.

The market is unlikely to give Hanson any reward for spinning a mature distribution operation and selling a

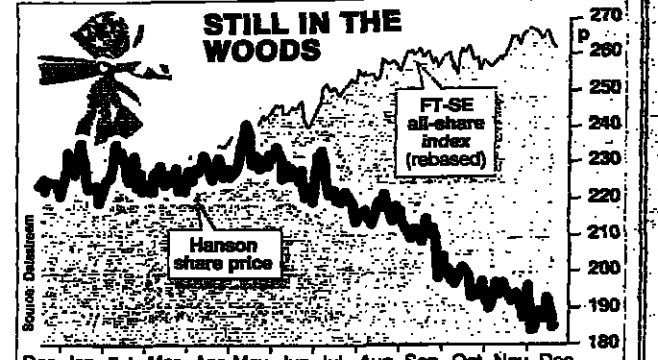
natural resource industry off the peak of its cycle. After the disposals Hanson will be left with a chemical business on a downward trend, some mature consumer businesses and coal and electricity. US investors have been buying Hanson, attracted by the yield of almost 8 per cent, but the portfolio does not suggest much growth is in store.

## Hanson

HANSON promised £2 billion of disposals within a year when it reported its full-year figures earlier this month. Lo and behold, the conglomerate yesterday announced plans to sell Cavenham Forest Industries and Boat a majority stake in Suburban Propane, with estimates that both transactions will yield £1.5 billion. Add to that the sale of the National Grid stake and Hanson will have bagged its £2 billion.

Hanson has a good record in achieving disposal objectives, but it may have a struggle achieving the full target proceeds.

The sale of Cavenham could potentially be more difficult. A buyer for the entire 1.75 million acres of forest is unlikely and Hanson will probably sell the



Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

## Inchcape

INSURANCE brokers are not flavour of the month and Inchcape does not need to sell Bain Hogg, so the trading group is wise to wait before it launches Bain Hogg on the stock market.

The continued pressure on insurance premiums has not crippled the profitability of brokers but it is keeping a lid on share prices. Were Bain Hogg to be sold or floated, it would probably fetch about £200 million — based on the market's valuation of its nearest competitor, Lowndes Lambert.

The latter's shares trade on a prospective multiple of around 8.5 times earnings, which, if applied to Bain Hogg, would put a price of £160 million on the broker. However, Lowndes' market value is equivalent to more than 100 per cent of its brokerage income. On that basis, Bain Hogg would be worth more than £200 million.

## Claremont

MOST of the bad news from Claremont Garments yesterday was clearly in the share price. The shares scarcely moved with the news that full-year profits would be unchanged from last year's level of £15 million.

Claremont's share price suffered a pounding in the second half of the year as investors correctly surmised that the bad news from retailers on the high street would

soon take its toll on the up-stream textiles industry. Warm weather in the Autumn kept consumers away from knitwear and winter clothing. While Claremont benefited from late demand for dresses, it suffered from weak demand for winter coats, a market for which Claremont is Britain's largest supplier.

Claremont is regarded as one of the better plays in the rag trade. It supplies more than 90 per cent of its output to Marks and Spencers and has the highest operating margins of any M&S supplier. That position is both a strength and a weakness. Unless consumer spending picks up M&S will be demanding more from its suppliers. If Claremont wishes to keep those margins it may have to seek lower cost solutions offshore. As a result, the positive outlook for 1996 remains intact. Given this, Claremont's shares are fairly priced.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES			
LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE			
COCOA			
Dec	882.60	Mar	1005.10
Jan	912.51	Jun	1014.10
May	934.02	Aug	1014.10
Sep	951.90	Nov	1014.10
Dec	969.98	Volume	325
ROBUSTA COFFEE (S)			
Jan	2100.20	Mar	1995.10
May	1780.70	Jun	1995.10
Sep	1601.60	Nov	1995.10
Dec	1601.60	Volume	325
WHITE SUGAR (S)			
Dec	306.50	Mar	306.50
Jan	306.50	Jun	306.50
May	306.50	Aug	306.50
Sep	306.50	Nov	306.50
Dec	306.50	Volume	124
MEAT & LIVESTOCK			
COMMISSION			
Dec	114.64	Mar	114.64
Jan	114.64	Jun	114.64
May	114.64	Aug	114.64
Sep	114.64	Nov	114.64
Dec	114.64	Volume	124

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES			
FTSE 100			
Period	Open	High	Low
Mar 96	3610.0	3635.0	3604.0
Jun 96	3610.0	3635.0	3604.0
FTSE 250			
Period	Open	High	Low
Mar 96	3980.0	3980.0	3980.0
Jun 96	3980.0	3980.0	3980.0
Three Month Sterling			
Period	Open	High	Low
Mar 96	93.46	93.47	93.45
Jun 96	93.46	93.47	93.45
Three Mth Eurodollar			
Period	Open	High	Low
Mar 96	96.42	96.42	96.38
Jun 96	96.42	96.42	96.38
Three Mth Euro DM			
Period	Open	High	Low
Mar 96	96.42	96.42	96.38
Jun 96	96.42	96.42	96.38
Long Gilt			
Period	Open	High	Low
Mar 96	110.14	110.17	110.11
Jun 96	110.14	110.17	110.11
Japanese Govt Bond			
Period	Open	High	Low
Mar 96	120.13	120.13	120.13
Jun 96	120.13	120.13	120.13
German Govt Bond			
Period	Open	High	Low
Mar 96	98.18	98.18	98.18
Jun 96	98.18	98.18	98.18
Three month ECU			
Period	Open	High	Low
Mar 96	94.94	94.94	94.94
Jun 96	94.94	94.94	94.94
Euro Swiss Franc			
Period	Open	High	Low
Mar 96	98.25	98.25	98.25
Jun 96	98.25	98.25	98.25
Italian Govt Bond			
Period	Open	High	Low
Mar 96	106.25	106.44	105.98
Jun 96	106.25	106.44	105.98

DOLLAR RATES			
Australia			
Period	Open	High	Low
Mar 96	1.3482-1.3491	1.3482-1.3491	1.3482-1.3491
Jun 96	1.3482-1.3491	1.3482-1.3491	1.3482-1.3491
Belgium (Com)			
Period	Open	High	Low
Mar 96	20.61-20.65	20.61-20.65	20.61-20.65
Jun 96	20.61-20.65	20.61-20.65	20.61-20.65
Canada			
Period	Open	High	Low
Mar 96	5.5890-5.5920	5.5890-5.5920	5.5890-5.5920
Jun 96	5.5890-5.5920	5.5890-5.5920	5.5890-5.5920
Denmark			
Period	Open	High	Low
Mar 96	4.9990-4.9990	4.9990-4.9990	4.9990-4.9990
Jun 96	4.9990-4.9990	4.9990-4.9990	4.9990-4.9990
France			
Period	Open	High	Low
Mar 96	1.4117-1.4124	1.4117-1.4124	1.4117-1.4124
Jun 96	1.4117-1.4124	1.4117-1.4124	1.4117-1.4124
Hong Kong			
Period	Open	High	Low
Mar 96	7.7330-7.7360	7.7330-7.7360	7.7330-7.7360
Jun 96	7.7330-7.7360	7.7330-7.7360	7.7330-7.7360
Ireland			
Period	Open	High	Low
Mar 96	1.5872-1.5892	1.5872-1.5892	1.5872



# THE TIMES CITY DIARY

## Work and play — then sue

FOR those with the office party still to come, a word of caution. In a typical piece of killjoy legalism, an employment lawyer advises today that the Christmas party season is often followed in January by a blitz of writs, complaints and disciplinary action.

According to Olga Aikin, an employment law specialist with the Aikin Driver Partnership: "The expectation may be of pleasure, but the reality may be an incident of sexual harassment, or a drink-drive problem on the way home."

If the party is an official one — and legally that means one tolerated by the management as well as organised by the firm — then the employer is responsible for everything that goes on there, she writes in today's issue of *People Management* magazine. "When party-goers are unable to look after themselves, the employer must take over," she says.

## Coals to...

BRITISH companies have not lost their initiative. Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, proudly announced record November exports to non-European countries yesterday. Some fine examples of beating the drum for Britain were Acer Snowmex Consultants of Telford, which designed and built an indoor real snow slope in Taiwan, Foster's Bakery in Barnsley, which exports baguettes to France, Anglo-Flora in Lincolnshire, which sells flower bulbs to The Netherlands and Festive Productions of Newport, Gwent, which manufactures blue Santas for export to Eastern Europe. The "blue" refers to the hue of the jewel-encrusted figures and to the colour of the coat Father Christmas wears in Russia.



Leeson: costly lager

## Leeson Lager

FORMER colleagues of disgraced Barings Bank trader Nick Leeson are reported to have paid for the production of a new beer called Leeson Lager, which wags have dubbed "probably the world's costliest beer". Hong Kong's South China Brewery has been asked to produce 100 cases of the novelty 88888 brand for clients and friends this Christmas. The 88888 refers to the account number used by Leeson to hide his trading losses. The label carries a picture of Leeson at Frankfurt Airport, where he was arrested by German police after fleeing Singapore in March.

## Bid ceasefire

HENRY STAUNTON and Keith Hamill are not letting something minor like a hostile bid ruin their friendship. Recently, Staunton, finance director of Granada, has been doing his best to put Hamill, his counterpart at Forté, out of a job. Yesterday, they declared a brief ceasefire. The two met at a Panmure Gordon lunch in the City and, though they didn't sit next to each other, they exchanged greetings. Hamill even went so far as to give Staunton a Christmas gift of a book — *Hospitality Management: An Introduction*.

COLIN CAMPBELL

## Currency forecast could have been better but the case for backing Wall Street was overcautious

LAST Christmas, in reviewing my annual predictions for 1994, I found to my distress that I had done better in predicting the gyrations of interest rates, currencies and stock markets than in understanding Government economic policy and the British business cycle. So when the time came to make some forecasts for 1995, I decided to confine myself entirely to financial markets. Now it is time to assess how these forecasts turned out.

On balance I was right to concentrate on finance. Most of the market moves I anticipated on January 12 did happen, at least in direction if not in magnitude. Unfortunately, however, anyone who backed my hunches with serious money would have suffered some hairy moments — and might have lost faith at exactly the point when the markets were starting to move the right way.

The clearest case of this was my prediction that the dollar would finally turn in 1995. It did turn in April. And it will end 1995 slightly stronger than it started, at least against the yen. But what a wild ride for a meagre profit of 5 per cent. Against the German mark, the Swiss and French francs and other "hard" currencies of Europe, the dollar has not yet even recovered to its January level, although it is well above the April lows.

Looking ahead, I am more confident than ever that the long-term trend in the dollar is now upwards, the yen will soon be down to ¥120 against the dollar and the "hard" currencies of Europe are riding for an even bigger fall. But why has this process taken so long?

I can think of two answers. First, governments and central banks — first in Japan and now in Germany and France — have been amazingly slow to recognise the permanent damage that overvalued currencies were doing to their economies. Secondly, private investors have been amazingly slow to recognise the attractions of investing in the US. In time, however, even central bankers will learn economics and fund managers will learn about investment. Then, the dollar will really start to move. More on that in two weeks' time, when I consider the prospects for 1996.

Now let me turn from my failure on currencies to the markets where my analysis worked, at least to some degree. As usual, the best prediction was the one which seemed rashest at the time.

While investment managers around the world, especially those based in London and Edinburgh, were predicting a 1987-style crash in US equity prices, I said it was time to buy Wall Street. While I argued that "multinationals and technology firms on the cutting edge of global growth" were attractive in most markets, I emphasised that "the best major market is the one that investors are now united in shunning: Wall Street". In the event, of course, US technology and multinational companies vastly outperformed all other shares.

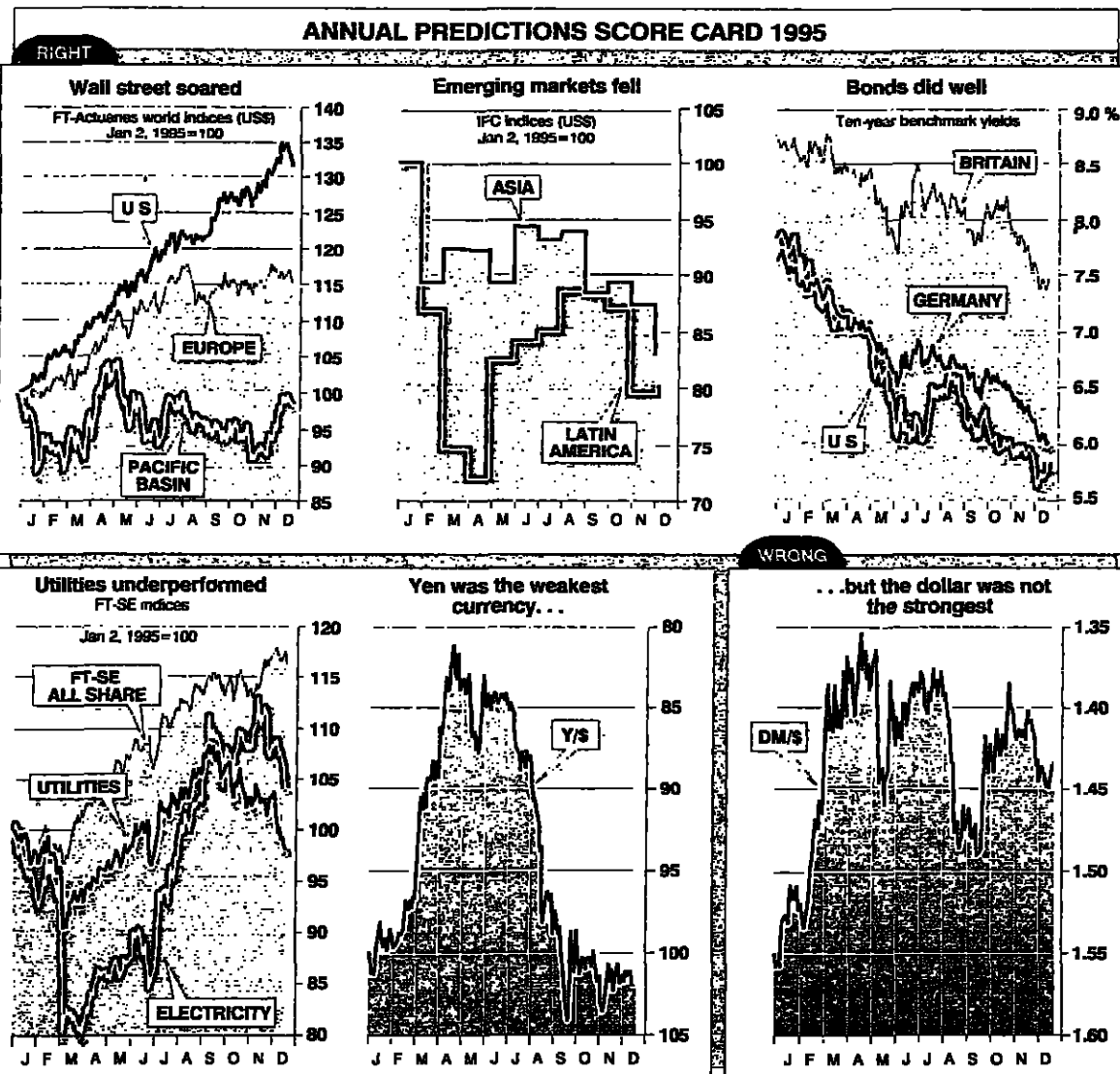
In retrospect, my expectation of a 10 to 15 per cent gain, bold though it seemed at the time, was ridiculously overcautious. One of the reasons for this excessive caution was a misunderstanding of the psychology of the bond

## ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY



# Rash predictions are often the most accurate ones



markets. I was right in predicting the direction of movement of interest rates, saying that the Federal Reserve Board's monetary tightening would be over by the summer (it cut interest for the first time since 1993 in June). I also foresaw the reversal in commodity prices and the general easing of inflationary pressures — all of which pointed to a good year for bonds.

As in the equity market, however, I was not nearly brave enough. I thought that, after the bloodbath that bond investors had suffered in 1994, they would need a "period of healing" before they were ready for another bull run. Instead, the rally began immediately and has continued without interruption. Nevertheless, against the background of the bearish consensus of a year ago, my modest optimism seemed bold, especially on Wall Street.

Why did I stick my neck out in favour of Wall Street in spite of the constant warnings from international fund managers that US shares were overvalued and riding for a fall? The reasons seem worth repeating, because they put in context the present mood among fund managers who are just as amazed today about American equities as they were a year ago.

In December 1994, a Merrill Lynch-Gallup survey showed that bears outnumbered bulls by a balance of 16 per cent when UK fund managers with control over more than £1,000 billion were asked which way Wall Street would move this year. Significantly, Wall Street was the only equity or bond market on which the fund managers were bearish. And curiously enough, the Merrill Lynch survey produced exactly the same balance of minus 16 per cent when fund managers were

asked the same question in the first week of December last year: that was after 20 consecutive months in which these managers had wrongly been selling US shares.

Two of my reasons for optimism about Wall Street remain valid. Macroeconomics was extremely favourable in January: the world economy was still in the early stages of a long non-inflationary expansion, the US economy was about to enjoy a non-inflationary "soft landing" and fears of an imminent recession were completely misplaced. All this I believe still to be true — although the possibility of a local recession in the "hard currency"

madhouse of continental Europe cannot now be so easily dismissed. Secondly, I thought that the biggest benefits from the global expansion would flow to companies with technological leadership and a worldwide reach. Most of these companies were based in America and obviously still are.

Thirdly, I pointed out that shares on Wall Street were not in fact overvalued if measured by the right yardsticks. In recent years, bonds have become extremely volatile, especially in real terms. Because bonds are more risky, they have to offer investors higher returns relative to shares than in the past. In addition, it is now more appropriate to value equities by the standards of the non-inflationary 1950s and 1960s than the unstable 1970s and 1980s. On this basis, too, equities a year ago looked cheap. Today, this is slightly less true. The price-earnings ratio on the S&P 500 index is now 19.1, against 18.3 a year ago. In this sense, most of the run-up in Wall Street was justified by growing profits.

There was one other argument for

favouring Wall Street, which I did not recognise last year but now seems more relevant than ever. It explains my correct prediction in January that the ever-fashionable emerging markets would go on falling and accounts for my biggest blunder on equities — the idea that Italy was a good speculative buy. Shares in Wall Street ought to be much more highly valued than shares in emerging markets because America has a system of laws and financial practices to ensure that companies are run in the interests of shareholders. In places such as Korea or Brazil — never mind China and Russia — this is not true.

Anyone buying shares in such markets is taking a big "corporate governance" risk on top of all the usual hazards of equity investment. The same argument can be applied to equity investment in countries such as Italy and perhaps even France, where stock markets are rigged in favour of controlling "core" shareholders at the expense of passive investors. The dismal performance of the Italian stock market this year, in spite of the country's glowing economic fundamentals, could readily be explained by the antics of Mediobanca, the country's dominant merchant bank.

Finally, my one political prediction. I said in January that the London stock market had not yet discounted a Labour victory. When it did, utility shares were bound to fall. So incompetent was John Major that he would "manage to give even privatisation a bad name". This political prediction requires no comment.

But, printing out the charts, I was intrigued to find that the financial analysis was not too far off the mark. In spite of all the takeovers in the electricity and water industries, utility shares have significantly underperformed the London market. Perhaps now the City really is ready for Labour. More of that on January 4.

## Anyone buying shares in emerging markets is taking a big risk

# Agents at risk in the brave new world of Lloyd's

## Tom Benyon forecasts frosty future for those watching over members' interests

porate funds have two main attractions over the funds of traditional names.

Firstly, they come in large chunks and are easy to administer; secondly, corporate investors understand risk.

What is the role of the members' agent? Their main task is to find their names high-quality underwriting capacity. However, names are finding that agents are simply unable to deliver what they are paid to do.

The managing agents, who run the syndicates, have learnt that unfettered growth of syndicate stamps can be counter-productive in a falling market: thus spare capacity on the best syndicates — created by other names obliged to resign because of losses or death — is not being allocated to the individual names, but is being clawed back to feed the managing agents' hearty appetite for corporate funds.

The political perception is that during the transition period, the individual name is important, but the reality is that, for the new market, corporate money is king. Cor-

porate funds have two main attractions over the funds of traditional names.

Firstly, they come in large chunks and are easy to administer; secondly, corporate investors understand risk.



Benyon: critical of fees

nese wall. Reliable and better-quality information than anything that agents can supply on syndicate selection and evaluation is available at modest cost from independent sources.

So the names ask why they should pay for their members' agents to sell stop-loss and Estate Protection Plan policies?

They receive additional commissions on the sales anyway, so why should they be paid twice for the same service?

Members' agents only other useful function is to collect fees owed to managing agents. Why should names pay for that? Managing agents should pay agents a commission for sums collected.

Surviving names are capable of looking after themselves, not all want "pooling arrangements" (Mapas), nor do many want to have the unrewarding status of corporate investor.

Times are changing and the names who provide all the risk capital want low fees and an efficient central administrative organisation to co-ordinate routine business

with their various syndicates. This is a relatively easy function, most of which could be delegated to computer programmes providing direct interface with managing agents and syndicates.

Lloyd's staff at Chatham are more than capable of producing a central members' agency service to names who are prepared to buy and sell their capacity on syndicates through the process of auction.

So how can their fees be justified? The days where agency charges are based on gross underwriting capacity are over, and rightly so. Names now understand the truth behind the old saw that there is no such thing as a free lunch and many see the under-resourced members' agent for what he really is — the most expensive letter box in the City.

It is unlikely that members' agents will be able to offer substantial added value to the new-look sophisticated names and therefore their days of wine and roses may be numbered.

Tom Benyon is director of The Society of Names

## BUSINESS LETTERS

### Rebalancing British industry

From Emeritus Professor David Bell

Sir, The most important factor in the British economy (pointed out by Janet Bush, article December 2) is the rebalancing of British industry. The problem arises because John Major has chosen GDP as a measure of growth and this includes payments to our own citizens, eg for meals out or for any kind of personal service, from hairdressing to car servicing.

Figures for the various components of GDP in different countries are difficult to find, but there are some in UN Year Books of National Accounts, and taking account of national trends it is reasonable to suppose that Britain has a higher than average proportion of "internal" contributions to its GDP. So is the Government

doing anything about it? First, is the "foresight initiative" in which technologists in industry and scientists in learned societies are asked to forecast which of a firm's product lines or which of the techniques at present available is likely to be the most profitable manufacturing industry in the near future. The Government is offering £40 million towards the cost of many conversions.

There is another scheme, not yet published, to get private capital more intimately associated with industry. It is not yet clear what is expected from this scheme, but any sign of interest in rebalancing British industry is to be welcomed. Yours faithfully, DAVID BELL, 87 East End, Wokingham, Beverley.

### Chance, the Bank and interest rates

From W. R. Armstrong

Sir, I note in today's edition (December 8) that, according to the Governor of the Bank of England, the Chancellor was "very fortunate" with his decision to cut interest rates earlier this year. The corollary must be therefore that Mr George was "unfortunate" in his reading of the financial situation. I find it surprising that, in the Bank of England, decisions on interest rates are a matter of chance — good fortune or bad fortune. I imagined in my naivety that correct decisions were made by a correct interpretation of the relevant financial indicators. Is this not what the Chancellor did?

Yours faithfully,  
W. R. ARMSTRONG,  
6 Strathallmond Court,  
Edinburgh.

### Feast of phrases in Forte defence

From A. P. Holland

Sir, City buffs used to take over speak will not be surprised to read Forte's *Creating Value*, dated December 8 1995. But laymen like myself may be concerned to read that they may find themselves, as Little Chief, in the wrong "customer segment" to receive "new product offerings". They may, however, be delighted, as I am, to read that "McDonald's has already been successfully piloted and is being rolled out". Let's hope the roller is heavy. Yours faithfully, A. P. HOLLAND, Oakfield, Crossbush, Arundel, West Sussex.

### Three-course meals for 1/6d

From Mr W. L. Abernethy

Sir, I can go back further than Lord Brightman (Business Letters, December 15). In the summer of 1938, my wife and I spent a week in London. We had magnificent three-course meals at the Coventry Street Corner House for 1/6d.

Yours, also nostalgically,  
W. L. ABERNETHY,  
6 Thornhill Close,  
Port Erin,  
Isle of Man.

### Identify 'selfish' fund manager

From Mr Benjamin Tobin

Sir, Your diary item (December 14) about the anonymous fund manager who downgrades Forte against Granada on the basis of whether they visit him or he visits them, stops short where others may have boldly trodden. I would not wish my money to be "protected" by someone who makes judgements on such a selfish basis. Be brave, think of your duty to readers and identify! Yours faithfully, BENJAMIN TOBIN, Streton, Central House, 189-203 Hoe Street, E17.

### Banks' golden age

From Mr J. E. Humphrey

Sir, Bank, "temple of prudence"; manager, "pillar of rectitude" (Pennington, December 6). "When?" in disbelief asks retired bank official T. Sales (*Laborator* 1931-1973) in Business Letters (December 15). As a customer I can say in 1930, if not later. Yours faithfully, J. E. HUMPHREY, 9 Offington Gardens, Worthing, West Sussex.

### Holiday concern

From Mr Richard J. Fleet

Sir, For once, Pennington is wrong. Nobody is suggesting that travel agents should be forced to market other companies' products.

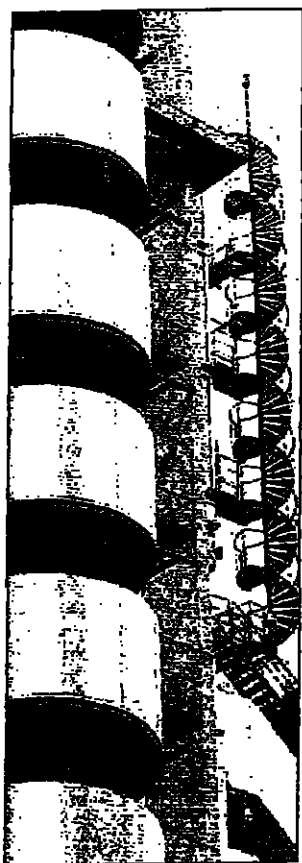
If you go to Sainsbury's, their own brands will be clearly marked as such and so shoppers can make an informed decision.

The complaint of the Consumer's Association is that holiday purchasers do not realise that they are purchasing own brands.

Yours sincerely,

RICHARD J. FLEET,  
144 Chiltern Park Avenue,  
Berkhamsted,  
Hertfordshire.

Letters to the  
Business and Finance  
sections of The Times  
can be sent  
by fax on  
0171-782 5112.



Lloyd's corporate money



# ACCOUNTANCY

## Try a festive fightback with tax-free giving

By JOHN BROWN

THREE families were asked what they did on Christmas Eve. The first said they tried to get their excited children to bed, had a drink and made last-minute preparations. The second said they went to midnight Mass, while the third said they went to their now empty warehouse and sang *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*.

The Chancellor also appears to have an increasingly supportive friend in high places. The VAT that flows with the festive spirit into his coffers as a result of ever increasing volume of seasonal activities is enormous: both the sacred and the secular make their contribution. A record Christmas even before the sales have started.

Candles, traditionally used to throw light on the festivities are taxed, as is the once zero-rated fuel to warm the church. Alcoholic communion wine is taxed and so, presumably, is the non-alcoholic alternative that used to be zero-rated until the VAT (Beverages) Order

took effect in 1993. Communion wafers are zero-rated and so is bread — both food of a kind used for human consumption, physical and spiritual. Charcoal, once zero-rated, is now taxed, along with incense, gold and myrrh.

Most Christmas-inspired expenditure is taxed. Most gifts, Christmas cards and calendars, wrapping paper, toys, festive beverages and gingerbread men with their heads dipped in chocolate to simulate hair are taxed. But the gingerbread woman, with her blonde hair simulated by caramel, escapes taxation.

Take the family to see the Nutcracker and you will be taxed at 17.5 per cent on the admission charge, but the programme will be zero-rated. Slip a copy of *Playboy* into your husband's Christmas stocking and you will have given him a zero-rated gift and created love in a cold climate.

Most of the ingredients and accompaniments to the turkey will be zero-rated as well as



Brown: "buy wisely"

the bird itself. You could now even have a zero-rated ostrich. However, the holly on the Christmas pudding, the brandy that ignites it, and the crackers will still ensure the Chancellor is an unseen guest at the festive table. Ponder too the taxation of snack foods at 17.5 per cent and the anomalies in that arena. Put out a selection and offer a prize for the person who correctly identifies the VAT liability of each.

No one will win. But we can fight back. Charity begins at home when you take your affinity card on a shopping spree. Buy your presents wisely and you will not lay up treasures for the Chancellor.

Lay up the treasures for yourself in the goodwill of tax-free giving. Go for books, or make the gift outlast seasonal goodwill as an annual subscription to a magazine; have your neighbour's cesspool emptied, or pay your mother-in-law's water rates.

Buy the children warm clothing and Jaffa Cakes and send them out to frolic tax-free in the snow while you are left peacefully behind *The Times*, content in the knowledge that it too is tax-free. But, before they go to bed, tell the children of Christmases past when fuel was tax-free and watch their tired eyes widen in disbelief. And have a drink from the bottle bought at the charity bazaar: it was donated for resale and is the only known source of zero-rated cheer.

The author is president of the VAT Practitioners' Group.

## A better life and lower bills?

THIS week almost 150,000 accountants will receive detailed merger proposals from their institutes. It is hoped that their arrival among the Christmas cards will mean that the feeling of goodwill towards one's fellow citizens and, in particular, fellow accountants, will carry the day. By midsummer next year, if all goes well, the hope is that the English ICA and the CIMA, the management accounting body, will have voted to merge into a new body called the Institute of Chartered Accountants. In the past, you would have refused to bet on such an outcome. The efforts across the last generation of accountants to merge any of the UK's six accounting bodies with each other have been disasters. There is, you may think, no chance of this new effort being any different. It is dressed in the same old flannel.

"That is our vision," says the first page, "through a new institute, a world-class professional structure for a world-class profession." It promises all the usual pie in the sky. "It is a great opportunity to build from the natural fit of two bodies a new organisation which can be far greater than the sum of the parts."

From all this, you might assume that we were fixed on the same track as before. There will be signs of increasing apathy through the spring followed by English ICA members refusing to vote for joining up with the perceived oils of some other inferior body. But if you look at the proposals closely, you start to realise that this time it might work. A

cunning stratagem has been employed. What is proposed leaves both bodies more or less unchanged. Members of the new body will have the same designatory letters as they do at present. The two separate training systems will turn into separate "streams". To be fair, there would be only one governing



ROBERT BRUCE

council, but there would be separate boards for the existing two memberships. Both their magazines would remain separate. Specialist facilities would remain. In short, most members would notice no difference. The services that will be merged fully will be areas

such as research. On top of this almost invisible merger is a blatant attempt at the profession's own "feel-good" factor. In the past, mergers have always been trumpeted with much in the way of abstract aspirations, such as an enhanced reputation and "speaking with one voice". There has never been a tangible benefit.

This time there is. English ICA members are promised a reduction in subscriptions. The members have always been sensitive about them. The fact that the amounts are a fraction of the golf club subs most of them pay is neither here nor there. The annual vote on subs has always been the way to let the leadership know members were far from happy. So it is with a great smile that the document reveals that after the merger English ICA subscriptions will be £125 a year, whereas the 1997 prediction was for £145 a year.

So this time, at last, it is a case of vote for a better life, but with your bills cut as well. Or at least it might be. One area the proposals gloss over is the rationalisation savings. But running more or less the same services for two different streams of membership is not likely to be cheaper than running the existing services.

Members have until February to return their questionnaires and then the councils can decide whether the wind is blowing in their direction or not. The idea of the merger makes good sense. As ever with accountants, it is the financial projections that do not.

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ON PAGE 38

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## UNIT TRUST PRICES 31

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## ■ FILM 1

A magic closet, a magic friend for a little boy, and *The Indian in the Cupboard* is on its way



## ■ FILM 2

... but Jim Carrey fails to find his magic comic timing in an *Ace Ventura* sequel

THE TIMES  
ARTS

## ■ MUSIC 2

The 20-year-old Daniel Harding scores a personal success standing in for Simon Rattle in Paris



## ■ MUSIC 2

Barbara Bonney adds her charm and artistry to the Britten song series at the Wigmore Hall

CINEMA: *The Indian in the Cupboard* may be small, says Geoff Brown, but he packs a punch in a barren period

# Stocking filler of the week

In Britain film distributors like to play Scrooge at Christmas. Not so in America, where ten films opened this week. Oliver Stone leads the field with the three-hour-plus *Nixon*, featuring Anthony Hopkins, a false nose and a peculiar hairline as the dark shadow among American presidents. For those weary of Stone's obsessions, Matthew Modine and Geena Davis offer swash and buckle in *Cutthroat Island*, an expensive pirate yarn from Renny Harlin.

If American moviegoers fancy comedy, Mel Brooks and Leslie Nielsen will do their best to amuse in *Dracula: Dead and Loving It*. Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau, two more over-seasoned pros, are also on hand in *Grumpy Old Men*, round two in the battle of insults begun in *Grumpy Old Men*. Add to this Ian McKellen's adventurous treatment of *Richard III*, Whitney Houston in a crass female buddy movie, *Waiting to Exhale*, Zhang Yimou's sumptuous *Shanghai Triad* and a muscle show from Jean-Claude Van Damme, and you almost have something for everyone.

So what is the week's film tally in London? One. Two if you count Jim Carrey's new *Ace Ventura* film, which opens on Boxing Day. True, British moviegoers have fewer hours available for Christmas shopping than their American counterparts, who luxuriate in stores that scarcely close. But by releasing so little new product, distributors are doing their best to ensure that the monster in the living room corner increases its grip on the punter. Stay at home with the booze and mincepies and you can see 800 movies of varying ages, if you believe the cover of

**The Indian in the Cupboard**  
Odeon West End  
PG, 96 mins  
Restrained, imaginative family film  
**Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls**  
Warner West End  
PG, 93 mins  
Jim Carrey lets rip in Africa

the Christmas *Radio Times*. Venture forth among your fellow humans to the place where movies should live and breathe — a public cinema — and you are faced with almost no choice at all.

Luckily, the week's new film, *The Indian in the Cupboard*, is a good one. After watching this, anyone who gets a wooden cupboard for Christmas will be on their toes. Omri, the boy hero, receives one from his brother, who found it among discarded objects tucked away in the house. No ordinary cupboard, it functions like a microwave oven. You place a 3in plastic figure of an American Indian inside; you close the door. You wait. You open, and out pops not a steaming chicken casserole but the same Native American, still 3in tall, but now living and breathing.

Little Bear is his name. Iroquois his nation; he is frightened and perplexed. When he last checked, it was 1761. Now he is trapped in a bizarre environment with carpeting, TV Westerns, and a pet rat who scuttles round the house inside a globe. To make Little Bear feel more at home, you dig out a plastic tepee

from a playbox. He feels the material: "Terrible!" he says.

Readers of Lynne Reid Banks's children's stories have known about Omri and the magic cupboard since 1981, when the first collection was published. In time, Hollywood tumbled to their charm; and they could not have been placed in better hands than Spielberg's associates Kathleen Kennedy and Frank Marshall, and the scriptwriter Melissa Mathison.

All were involved in *E.T.*, and this gentle film, directed by the former Muppeteer Frank Oz, conjures up the *E.T.* magic as a friendship builds between Omri and his visitor from another age. Omri's character proves crucial. When the live Indian first appears, his eyes widen with awe and delight. But Hal Scardino, a remarkable child actor, never lets Omri boil over with glee: he treats the little visitor seriously, and his earnest, dreamy-eyed demeanour puts him in a different league from most street-smart Hollywood kids.

The film as a whole stands apart. In a show-off age, it delights in being reticent: the special effects of Industrial Light & Magic exist solely for the story's benefit. Little Bear himself, played by Cherokee rap artist Littlefoot, is scarcely more boisterous than Omri; for any loud acting, you must turn to David Keith as the bumptious, drunken cowboy Boone, another plastic figure cooked into life by the microwave cupboard, or Steve Coogan as Tommy Atkins, a cheerful British soldier with a vital medical kit.

Since a toy Indian is involved, and this is the age of PC thinking, there is much talk of Native American lore. But Mathison's script pays its

PC dues subtly, just as it lightly sketches the rough and tumble of the urban world beyond Omri's bedroom. On the streets, a kid easily steals Omri's money. Inside the house, through his adventures with the toys, he learns the skills and gains the wisdom necessary for survival.

Oz has not always been the most controlled of directors: in his last comedy, *HouseSitter*, he dragged his feet terribly. But the pace and tone of *The Indian in the Cupboard* are beautifully controlled. If you look for loud, flamboyant family fun, the film will certainly disappoint. Aim for quieter pleasures, and you will get them in spades.

No one should expect delicacy and good taste from Ace

Ventura: *When Nature Calls*, Bat droppings, skunk piss, a mouthful of phlegm: these are some of the tasty ingredients in this relentless sequel to Jim Carrey's breakthrough film of 1994, *Ace Ventura, Pet Detective*.

In earlier Carrey vehicles, the script usually allowed you to look elsewhere if the star's antics started to pall. There were sidekicks, sparring partners or bountiful special effects. Here the man stands very much centre stage, and if you don't like his mugging there is nowhere else to go, except through the edit.

Even Carrey's fans may wince from the glare of their idol's spotlight. He contorts his face as gleefully as before as Florida's antic animal

slueth, now on a mission in Africa; but after experiencing the digitally enhanced distortions of *The Mask*, his hyperactive mouth and eyes begin to appear almost sedate.

The intense focus on the star attraction also reveals the cruelty and unattractive narcissism built into Carrey's personality. As he swaggers through the jungle, being nice neither to humans nor animals, the anarchic brio that appeals to the young soon wears thin. You want to throttle this preening monkey, or at least kick him in the pants — especially the yellow-and-green striped pair worn in the film's poster.

Matters begin amiably

enough with Ace attempting a mountain rescue of a raccoon: a parody of Sylvester Stallone in *Cliffhanger*. When his mission fails, depression sends him to a spiritual retreat in the Himalayas.

From thence the film travels to Africa (South Carolina, actually), where the Great White Bat, a sacred creature of the Wachati tribe, has been stolen just when its services are required at the wedding of the chief's daughter. Here the humour, or lack of it, really starts to bite: you know a film is in dire straits when an effusion of spit (the tribe's greeting ritual) becomes a comic highlight.

Where *The Indian in the Cupboard* falls over backwards to be respectful to

Native Americans, *Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls* shows no compunction about treating Africa's tribal races as laughable fuzzy-wuzzies. Ian McNeice and Simon Callow's stereotypical British colonials generate slightly better jokes, although Steve Oedekerk, the writer and director, can never dislodge the mean-spirited atmosphere hanging in the air.

Just occasionally, the film's humour and bad taste fuse in such a way that you become transfixed by the grotesque spectacle, half amused and half appalled. The best example involves Carrey, a fake rhinoceros, and a crowd of glibble tourists. But to nail down the detail might rob potential audiences of their one solid chance of laughter.



Omri (Hal Scardino) and Little Bear (Littlefoot), the tiny Native American cooked to life in the microwave, in the charming *The Indian in the Cupboard*

## Oscar's young contenders

A contest for budding British film-makers is attracting quality work

When the third Lloyds Bank Channel 4 Film Challenge reached its closing date for entries, last Friday, its organisers were astonished to find that more than 2,500 had flooded in — 25 per cent up on last time, and 50 per cent more than in the first year. What's more, one of these 2,500 hopeful film-makers (all aged between 11 and 25) could actually win an Oscar.

Seriously. Next month one of last year's winners of this travl for young screenwriters — *You Know My Story*, by Jennie Roberts — may well win the New York Festival award in the young filmmaker category. It is on a shortlist of four from an international entry of nearly 3,000. Lloyds intends to go one better next time, and aim for the 1997 Oscars.

The Roberts film is a remarkable piece of work: a ghost story about child abuse, written by a 14-year-old who has no first-hand experience of either main elements in her story. The Lloyds competition itself is also a phenomenon. When its eight second-year winners had their ten-minute films televised in July, they drew a million viewers each. The films, documentaries and dramas ranged widely in subject: murder and brutality, ethnic community development, black comedy, the psychology of pop fans, pop-music mania.

Despite good viewing figures, only in September did Channel 4 decide to keep the competition for another year. That it has survived is a tribute to the sponsor's determination. At one stage, as Channel 4 shuffled the project between two commissioning editors, David Goldesgym, Lloyds's sponsorship manager, considered shifting the competition to cinemas, and al-



*You Know My Story*, written by Jennie Roberts, has already won acclaim in America

most convinced the Odeon chain to take it on. One ten-minute short could easily be tacked on to the end of a feature, he argued, and young writers and directors would be directly associated with the revival of British cinema. But because feature films are now run end to end, even a short programme addition to every screening through the day could make the sessions run into the early hours.

There was also a sponsorship problem. The trailers we see in cinemas around Britain are sponsored by TSB, whose contract prevents any other financial house having a major cinema sponsorship. Major cinema sponsorship, series delectable French, series producer for the production company, Compulsive Viewing, said: "Lloyds were terrific. They could have walked away from it, and no one would have thought the worse of them — but they didn't."

Now both television and cinema are back in the frame. After representations from the British film industry's guardian angels, Sir David Putnam and Lord Attenborough, it was Channel 4's director of programmes, John Willis, who stood up for the Challenge and appointed a single commissioning editor, Lucinda Whiteley, to drive it. "Decisions of this kind will

always be made year by year; that's normal," Whiteley says. "But the Challenge has become an important part of the Channel 4 output. It's the only completely open competition in which every submitted script is guaranteed to get a reading."

The Odeon chain is still talking, and so now is Virgin, the new owner of the MGM chain. The suggestion is that one Lloyds short be shown each evening. Even the sponsorship problem seems to have disappeared with the merger of TSB with Lloyds. The films could get a simultaneous cinema season to complement their exposure on Channel 4.

The great strength of the Challenge is that it uncovers talent that could not be found in any other way. Susan Nickson was a 14-year-old Runcorn schoolgirl when she won in 1993 with a piece called *Buddha's Legs*. She was invited to write a half-hour piece for Channel 4 and turned in *Life's a Bitch*, a hot favourite for a Bafta award in March. Now 17, she has already made the vital contacts for a career in film or television.

There are, says Kate Iles of Compulsive Viewing, clear trends in this year's entries. The influence of *Four Wed-*

*dings* and *Shallow Grave* is palpable. "There seems to be a preoccupation with the death of parents, too," she said. "But a lot of the scripts are based on personal experience, and that makes them very fresh."

Chris Main, the author of *Boom, Boom*, one of this year's successes, would still be working in a Tyneside shoe factory if he hadn't gone in for the Challenge. Iles says: "He saved his money up so he could take a year off to write. What he's gained from this is knowledge, experience and confidence."

The scripts are worked on in degrees of thoroughness between their raw state and filming. Two St Andrews girls were told that there was not enough money in the budget for the five main characters in their script, and they offered to run a cake sale at their school to pay for the extra actor.

Directors for the pieces have to be under 30 and to have made a film already. French and Iles select them from schools and the industry. "That has been enormously valuable to me," says Whiteley. "I have used three directors myself on other projects as a result of the Challenge — and one of them won me an Emmy this year."

SIMON TAIT

CONCERTS: Triumph against the odds in Paris; great Britten in London

Daniel Harding wrought a miracle in Paris on Monday night. The 20-year-old Englishman, who is spending a year as Claudio Abbado's assistant at the Berlin Philharmonic, replaced Simon Rattle for the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's concert at the Châtelet and earned a noisy ovation. But it was a close-run thing.

The problems facing conductor and orchestra were almost unsurmountable. To start with, the programme featured the Schoenberg Piano Concerto and Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde*, which are not standard works in an experienced conductor's repertoire, never mind one whose career ran to just two full concerts with a full-size orchestra.

Peter Seifert, scheduled to sing the tenor role in the Mahler, had already withdrawn before Rattle pulled out for family reasons. There was also the uncertainty about whether the orchestra would actually reach strike-torn Paris. "It was tempting to cancel," said Ed Smith, the general manager of the CBSO. "How could we find someone to do that programme in a city we didn't know we would reach?"

In the end Harding carried the night so memorably that

## Late substitute carries baton

CBSO/Harding  
Châtelet, Paris



Harding: nerveless in place of absent Rattle

Thomas Hampson, the American baritone in *Das Lied*, called his achievement "nothing short of incredible". A full house that included Henri Louis de la Grange, the noted Mahler scholar, gave its acclaim and it was an exhausted young man who walked off into the Paris night.

The Châtelet management was initially reluctant to accept an unproven Englishman as Rattle's locum. Rattle, however, knew his man. Harding served as his assistant in Birmingham two seasons ago when Rattle publicly endorsed him in Symphony Hall before a performance of Bartok's *Miraculous Mandarin* suite. Even so, Harding had to fib when his manager (and Rattle's), Martin Campbell-White, phoned him in Berlin last Friday. He had never conducted the Schoenberg, "but I lied because I wanted the gig". As for *Das Lied*, a musical peak in anybody's atlas, he had done it once in Italy, "with a bunch of farmers".

Harding was given a comradely hand by Emanuel Ax, the soloist in the Schoenberg, and Hampson played a real "captain's innings". Was it intimidating? Only up to a

point. "I know everybody in the orchestra so I wasn't scared," Harding said. "Das Lied is a piece I have known for as long as I can remember and I couldn't say 'no' to an opportunity of getting to know it better."

So well did he seize his chance that the Orchestre de Paris, seeking a replacement for Carlo Maria Giulini next month, asked if he would like to take over. He can't, but in April he conducts the Sharoun Ensemble, the Berlin Philharmonic's chamber group, at the Salzburg Easter Festival. On his 21st birthday he will conduct the Rotterdam Philharmonic at the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, and beyond lies a Luc Bondy production of *The Turn of the Screw* in Aix-en-Provence.

Out of potential disaster, then, came triumph. The CBSO repeated the Mahler in Symphony Hall on Tuesday and record it next week with Hampson and Seifert. This week alone they will play seven concerts, underlining once again the versatility and professionalism of British musicians. At the end of a year when our orchestras have received bad news with every post it is worth honouring what we often take for granted.

MICHAEL HENDERSON

## Revelling in the music of the words

Barbara Bonney  
Wigmore Hall

W.H. AUDEN was at the Wigmore Hall on December 15, 1936, to hear the first performance of Britten's setting of his poem, *Underneath an object willow*. Fondly dedicated to Britten, it told him, in no uncertain terms, that "All that lives may love; why longer bow to loss With arms across? Strike and you shall conquer."

Britten never did — or at least not in the way Auden may have wanted. Gradually, they grew apart. The willow song did not make it into Barbara Bonney's recital in the Wigmore Hall's *Britten Song Series*: we must wait until January 24 to hear it. And the early, rapturous Auden settings *On This Is*

land give little indication of the tensions between the two of them. Nobody, for instance, would ever suspect that, as Donald Mitchell has suggested, Britten found Auden's verbal wit and huge vocabulary "intolerably burdensome".

In the voice of Bonney and under the fluent fingers of Julius Drake, the perfect empathy of words and music, the answering of inflection to inflection, form to form, reminded us only that this encounter with Auden's verse was to form the well-spring which would nourish

so much in Britten's responses to English poetry. Bonney's re-creation of the ecstatic, transitory movement of the animal kingdom in *Fish in the unrudded lakes*, her brilliant, golden trumpeting forth of the Handelian *Let the Florid Music Praise!*, her sharp charm in the cabaret-style *As it is, Plenty* — all added to the stock of revelation in this excellent series.

Gabriel Woolf, too, provided real illumination in his pre-performance collage and reading of Auden's prose and poetry, the last in the Wigmore's series of talks on writers who influenced Britten. And that was that for the evening. As ever, the Britten was spread a little thin (the

series, after all, must run and run). Bonney built the rest of her recital round Haydn and Mendelssohn (certainly not known as wordsmiths of the first order), and ended it with eight songs from Hugo Wolf's *Italienisches Liederbuch*.

Here, once more, the word came into its own. Bonney made sure that each line of *Wer rief dich denn?* ("Who Called You Then?") took on a different tone of indignation; enjoyed the heart-stopping pauses in the songs of yearning; and, again with admirable understatement, chattered her way through Wolf's own little catalogue song, *Ich hab'n Penna*.

HILARY FINCH





## CHOICE 1

**Tie me pumpkin down, sport**  
**Rolf Harris opens in Cinderella**

VENUE: Tonight at the Birmingham Hippodrome



## CHOICE 2

**Peter Donohoe joins the CBSO for a dose of epic Tchaikovsky**

VENUE: Symphony Hall, Birmingham, today

## THE TIMES ARTS



## CHOICE 3

**The Marx Brothers' Animal Crackers is recreated as a stage show**

VENUE: Tonight, Royal Exchange, Manchester



## VISUAL ART

**Tips for would-be artist's models, from one who has revealed all in the cause of culture**

## LONDON

**MUSICAL FESTIVITIES:** The Wigmore continues to a lot of the ho-ho repertoire tonight, when the Guildhall Sing Ensemble offers a programme of Christmas Classics, from Handel to Greg. Lydia Russell, Catherine Wyn-Rogers, Ian Partridge and Simon Birchall join The Selden choir and orchestra at St John's for Handel's mighty Messiah, as part of the Wigmore Christmas Festival. There will be a programme of traditional carols for The Selden's first-ever family concert tomorrow.

**Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 011-355 2141.** Tonight, 7.30pm. St John's, Smith Square, SW1 0171-222 0611. Tonight, 7.30pm. Fri, 2.30pm.

**ASHTON DELIGHTS:** Curran up for the Royal Ballet's Tales of Beatrix Potter — delightful for adults and enthralling for younger fans. Tonight's performance opens with Ashton's Les Patineurs, set to Meyerbeer's music and evoking the rhythms of ice skating. Then comes the Royal Ballet School's Peter and the Wolf tomorrow.

**Elsewhere** Gary Wilmot, Rolf Harris, Judy Cornwell and Robin Cousins team up for a no-nonsense Cinderella.

## TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kate Anderson

The sets should be quite spectacular, complete with a frozen lake and a coach pulled by white reindeer. Tonight, 7.30pm. Hippodrome, Hurst Street (0121-622 7480). Open tonight, 7.15pm. Contact box office for schedule.

**Also in Birmingham:** Peter Donohoe joins Simon Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra today for a double bill of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No 1 and the complete second act of The Nutcracker. Second music and carolling take over tomorrow and Saturday.

**Cardiff:** Welsh National Opera continues its 50th anniversary celebration with a timely and small-scale tour of Humperdink's Hansel and Gretel. Performed in English, and with children of all ages, as long as they are over eight. Designs are by the ever-inventive Laz Brodskiy. Star Centre, Sport Road (01222 48447). Tonight, 7.30pm. Next in Street, Strade (01483 442846). Sat.

## LONDON GALLERIES

**British Museum:** Westminster Kings and the Medieval Palace of Westminster (0171-583 1565). Heyward: Art and Power: Europe under the dictators 1830-1945 (0171-583 1441). Medley: Gallery: Paintings from National Trust Houses (0171-747 2985). National Portrait Gallery: Richard and Mary Cosway (0171-583 0055). Royal Academy: Africa: Art of a Continent (0171-438 7438). Tate: Cézanne: The Art of War 1839-45 (0171-887 8000). V & A: Jain Art from India (0171-938 8500).

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Lois Rathbone recalls the chills, cramps and consequences of baring all in the name of art

# The naked and the damned



Leighton House Museum has been holding auditions for a century-and-a-half exhibition. Two scantily-clad actresses have been sought to impersonate Dorothy Dene, muse to Frederic Leighton. Having once done a similar thing myself, let me offer the women a few tips.

Like Dorothy Dene, the successful applicants, Fo Cullen and Kate Hargreaves, are of medium height, with unfashionably buxom, and pre-Raphaelite hair. Physical similarities aside, they are required to keep still and, as they will find out, that can be incredibly tiring.

As a former model at the Royal College of Art, I once posed publicly as Manet's *Olympia*. The occasion was a charity ball in the Royal College's studios in Kensington, four years ago. As part of the evening's entertainment, I was being sculpted by the young artist Ben Panting.

Mine was not a particularly convincing imitation of Manet's demi-mondaine — a slip of a girl. But the presence of a naked body in the room seemed to have a liberating effect on the revellers. One young woman arrived as a caryatid, dressed only in a sheet and white body paint. After a glance in the direction of the chaise-longue, she dispersed with the sheet altogether. Mayhem ensued. A young man started undoing his bow tie in emulation; a barman pouring a drink missed the glass. Pinned to my couch, I was being chatted up by a Greek cabaret singer called Otis, who became increasingly persistent in his attentions.

The Leighton House girls are being asked to impersonate the model for Lord Leighton in his study of a sleeping woman, *Flaming June*, as part of the museum's centenary celebrations to commemorate the artist's death in February. The exhibition organisers have looked for actresses rather

than professional models. They may be remembering Tilda Swinton's recent performance at the Serpentine Gallery, where she "slept" in a glass coffin, although in this case the actresses have some lines to speak. But members of the acting profession tend to be a fidgety bunch, incapable of sitting still, so the organisers might have been better advised to make their selection from the art schools.

Exhibitionists by nature, professional models lack the talent for more active performing roles and, for this reason, take the business of keeping still seriously. Their job demands the utmost in human endurance. Perched high on the studio's wobbling pillar, one side of the body is singed by an antique heater, the other exposed to a draughty window in February. All the while, a teacher throws encouraging comments at the students: "That's it, but make it bigger. Much bigger." Which part of your body does he mean?

Quentin Crisp, a shy young man with his clothes on, brought a sense of theatricality to life classes in the 1940s. He would roll on the paint-daubed floors, twist himself into impossible contortions, balance on arabesque on top of his perch. Students would unhook him from the picture rails and beg him to stand as though he were simply waiting for a bus. "What kind of an injunction was that?" he reasoned. "When, at a bus stop, I looked as though I were on the dais of some life room."

Similar eccentricities could be found at the Royal College. One model, a farmer by day, was middle-aged but capable of holding a difficult position for hours. He was also quite without inhibitions, with one exception. He insisted on wearing his farmer's hat at all times. Without it he felt quite naked.

My evening's labours as *Olympia*, as anyone who has sat for a portrait will know, rapidly became an exercise in pain control. The simplest pose can become agonising within minutes. To lie still for seven hours, I was supplied with restorative glasses of champagne at half-hourly intervals.

The organisers of the Leighton Exhibition will need to be equally thoughtful to their muses. And please, no caryatids.

NADINE MEISNER

## NEW RELEASES

**BADE (U)** Groucho, zealous family film about a sheezy-hedging pig, with a cast of talking animals. Director, Chris Noonan. (0171-438 8891) Mon-Sat, 7.15pm, most mats sold out. Until Jan 15.

**THE GLASS MENAGERIE** Sam Mendes' radiant production, Zoe Wanamaker and Claire Skinner play mother and daughter. Ben Wadsworth. (0171-222 3301) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm.

**A CHRISTMAS CAROL** Revival of Ian Judge's popular but over-sweet production. Clive Francis plays Scrooge. (0171-438 8891) Mon-Sat, 7.15pm, most mats sold out. Until Jan 15.

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## THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

**House full, returns only**  
Some seats available  
Seats at all prices

**AN INSPECTOR CALLS** Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing Inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the patters of society. Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-438 3085) Mon-Fri, 7.45pm; Sat, 8.15pm; mat Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm.

**THE MASTER BUILDER** Peter Hall's sexually understated production. Alan Bates the smouldering hero; his performance by Gemma Jones and Victoria Hamilton. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-438 8800) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Wed and Sat, 3pm.

**RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET** A marvellously mad mix of the Temper with Great Balls of Fire and other cosmic hits of the 1950s and 1960s. Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-438 5599) Mon-Thu, 8pm; Fri and Sat, 8pm and 8.30pm. Also Dec 27, 2.30pm.

**THE TIE THAT BINDS (18)** Nasty thriller about child adoption, with Keith Carrington. Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-438 5599) Mon-Thu, 8pm; Fri and Sat, 8pm and 8.30pm. Also Dec 27, 2.30pm.

**THE SWAN PRINCESS (U)** Wizard features wedding of Prince Desiré and Princess Odette. (Bland animated fairy tale) Director, Richard Beddard. (0171-438 5599) Mon-Thu, 8pm; Fri and Sat, 8pm and 8.30pm. Also Dec 27, 2.30pm.

**THREE WISHERS (PG)** Hobo spreads wisdom in the American suburbs. Dazzling romantic fantasy directed by Martha and John Campbell. (0171-438 5599) Mon-Thu, 8pm; Fri and Sat, 8pm and 8.30pm. Also Dec 27, 2.30pm.

**GOLDENEYE (12)** Pierce Brosnan twines as the new James Bond. A rip-roaring thriller with a sense of humour, with Sean Bean, Martin Campbell directs. (0171-438 5599) Mon-Thu, 8pm; Fri and Sat, 8pm and 8.30pm. Also Dec 27, 2.30pm.

**THE SHOOTER (18)** US marshal (Dolph Lundgren) comes to Prague to prevent an assassination. Video release, directed by Ted Kotcheff. (0171-438 5599) Mon-Thu, 8pm; Fri and Sat, 8pm and 8.30pm. Also Dec 27, 2.30pm.

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## Sugar without the plums

Ben Stevenson's production of *The Nutcracker* for English National Ballet is only four years old, but already it seems of pensionable age. Its tired effects cannot be blamed entirely on the Festival Hall's shallow, dance-hostile stage. When dancers over-act as if they were in a football stadium, then it is the company which is at fault.

The jokes which were once a stronger feature of Stevenson's staging than his choreography now fall as flat as the exaggeratedly tottering, precarious old folks of the Stahlbaum's Christmas party. The naïg-

ty, boisterous antics of the children need more finesse to raise a laugh.

An exception, though, was Yat Sen Chang's terminally riotous Fritz: he convinced by his bouncing dancing and youthfulness. So did Paul Lewis's Drosselmeyer, saturnally elegant and mysterious.

The most horrifying performance, however, came from Alice Crawford as Clara, whose sugary, prettified manner made her teeth hurt. Not dancing, if only she would

accept that less is often more.

Yet the company as a whole is looking good — as it has been in the two years of Derek Deane's directorship. Ensembles are brightly polished in their uniform and attack.

Roman Rykin as the Nutcracker Prince has the superbly arched feet and turn-out of his Russian training, although some strain ultimately tended to show. In this production he gets to partner two ballerinas: Josephine Jewkes's Snow Queen, restrained, grave-

faced, but very stylish; and Cecilia Kerche's Sugar Plum Fairy.

Kerche, a guest from Brazil, bears a passing resemblance to Princess Grace in her middle years and has a facility which allows her to do anything. You want an immobile balance in attitude with head turned back over one shoulder? Or a pirovetté ending perfectly on one knee? Or a diagonal of the solidly centred *fouettés*? Then Kerche is your dancer: adept, experienced but, like Rykin, somewhat lacking in glamour.

NADINE MEISNER

## ART GALLERIES

**AN EXHIBITION OF Paintings from 1930 to 1995** by Chris Noonan. (0171-438 8891) Mon-Sat, 7.15pm, most mats sold out. Until Jan 15.

**THE GLASS MENAGERIE** Sam Mendes' radiant production, Zoe Wanamaker and Claire Skinner play mother and daughter. Ben Wadsworth. (0171-222 3301) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm.

**A CHRISTMAS CAROL** Revival of Ian Judge's popular but over-sweet production. Clive Francis plays Scrooge. (0171-438 8891) Mon-Sat, 7.15pm, most mats sold out. Until Jan 15.

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## BUILDING

The temporary home of the Royal Opera could be one of London's prime landmarks



## OPERA

Could Opera North's maestro, Paul Daniel, be considering moving to the Coliseum?

## THE TIMES ARTS



## THEATRE 1

Mixed feelings are evoked by Jonathan Harvey's mockery of the lonely in his hit play



## THEATRE 2

Spoof melodrama proves diverting as *The Streets of Dublin* comes to the streets of Brixton

Faster, cheaper, stronger – plans for the Royal Opera House's temporary home at Tower Bridge impress Marcus Binney

# Shimmering steel takes the strains

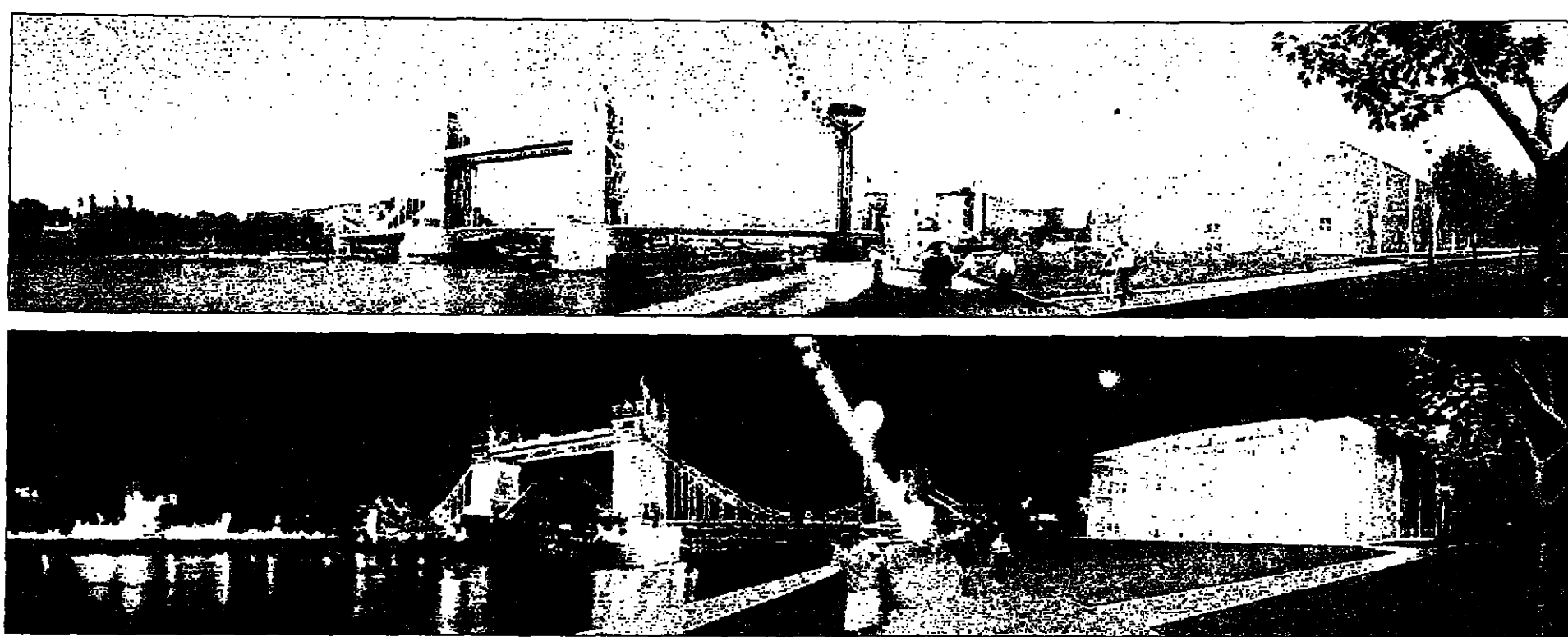
The temporary home for the Royal Opera House, approved by planners on Monday night, looks set to break records for speed of construction and value for money. The architect, Ian Ritchie, says the 2,350-seat theatre will be built in 16 months at a cost of £14 million, or just £6,000 per seat.

Economy comes from the simple box form and steel-frame construction. Inside will be the largest stage in London, designed to take productions from La Scala and the Met in New York, and with backstage facilities allowing the ROH to have five productions in the repertoire at once, as at Covent Garden. There is a fully motorised fly tower and space for ballet and chorus rehearsals.

"No one has built a steel opera house before. It will be a landmark for opera everywhere," says Derek Sugden, the project's acoustic adviser and a veteran of Aldeburgh and Glyndebourne. "My only concern is that the acoustics might be better than Covent Garden," he adds, half-jokingly.

What began as a demountable theatre now looks set to become a permanent fixture on the south bank of the Thames by Tower Bridge. A major opera house must be 100 per cent soundproof, solid enough to keep out the sound of low-flying helicopters as well as jumbo jets. Ritchie hopes to achieve this at reasonable cost by adapting the techniques of civil engineering. The outer walls will be built of wire baskets of loose stone, which engineers call gabions and use on riverbanks. But the mesh will be in woven stainless steel, creating an effect like chain mail. "Lit tangentially at night, the whole exterior will shimmer," says Ritchie.

Window frames will be in flame-sprayed zinc and bronze, while the fly tower will be wrapped in a silver-grey membrane. After dark, the big excitement will be the sight of Tower Bridge ablaze with floodlights. Indeed, the views from the new opera house could hardly be bettered. There is nothing to impede the view of the river and the Tower of London; no buildings, no cars, just a slope of lawn down to the embankment walk. Ritchie has taken full advantage, placing all the foyers at the front, with floor-



Past and future perfect: an artist's impression of how the Southwark opera house will look by day and night, juxtaposed with the ornate Victorian splendour of Tower Bridge

to-ceiling glass and a roof terrace.

The inner acoustic box of the auditorium is designed like a cofferdam, consisting of two skins of folding steel plates with sand poured into the gap between to block out sound.

The interior will have steel walls and ceiling, and unpainted bronze balcony fronts. "It will glisten like silver but not reflect the stage lights," says Ritchie. Seating upholstery will be in five shades of blue, with carpeting restricted to the aisles. "It is all reflective materials to achieve the best acoustics," says Sugden.

In plan, the auditorium is neither a horseshoe nor a fan but gently curved, providing a view of the whole depth of the stage for all – essential for ballet.

The balconies are not cantilevered from the wall in the traditional way, but suspended from the ceiling trusses by tension rods, placed so they will never impede views. As a result, the balconies stand free of the rear wall, allowing the back of the theatre to be as dramatically uplit as the front curtain.

Now that Southwark Council has voted planning permission, John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, has 21 days to review the proposal. Any delay could scupper the

project, since the Ritchie opera house must be ready for Covent Garden's planned closure in September 1997.

The site owners, property group St Martin's and Southwark Council, have vested the land in a trust. They believe the new theatre will help regeneration of the area and want it to remain there after the Royal Opera and Ballet return to Covent Garden in the year 2000. The one big problem is that the developer, Greater London Enterprise, has yet to line up the second tenant vital to the finance. Yet Jeremy Isaacs, director of Covent Garden, remains confident. "There are all sorts of people keen to come in after us, including an American corporation and ENO if they decide to refurbish the Coliseum," he says.

The "American corporation" is widely believed to be Disney, which needs a large London theatre for its blockbuster stage musicals. How will audiences get to the new opera house? Southwark will not allow car parking on the site but, says Ritchie, there will be a drop-off point for coaches and queuing for 30 taxis. The Northern Line at London Bridge and Tower Hill Underground are both only five minutes' walk away," he says optimistically.

## Maestro at the crossroads

Am I talking to the future music director of English National Opera? At the other end of the line there is a pause – not exactly of Wagnerian proportions, but certainly more than Webern-esque. "Well, what have you heard?" says the conductor Paul Daniel, coyly.

What I have heard is that Daniel – very tall, very thin, very talented – has certainly been asked to succeed the ill-fated Sian Edwards at the Coliseum. No surprises there; at 37, he has five years experience at the helm of Opera North behind him, as well as regular guest conducting at distinguished opera houses in Munich and Brussels. And he is now "talking" to the New York Met. Few doubt that he would be ideal at ENO. But I have also heard that he turned the offer down.

Another pause down the line from Leeds, where Daniel is resting between rehearsals for tomorrow's big new production of Verdi's *Luisa Miller*. "I would certainly take the offer extremely seriously if it were offered. I was lucky enough to work at the Coliseum at the beginning of my career. Watching David Pountney at work, and the way that Mark Elder created a superb music staff, was invaluable.

"But being tipped for a job puts you in a difficult position. The first assumption is that you are willing to abandon your present task. Whenever you move from one thing to another, there is always a sense of guilt: a feeling that what you were doing previously was merely a stepping stone to bigger things. Opera North does not deserve to be used in that way. It has so much talent. And I'm very happy with what I am doing here at the moment."

So that's a "no", is it?

The conductor Paul Daniel is happy to stay with Opera North – for the moment, he tells Richard Morrison

Another pause. "I stress the words 'at the moment'." Daniel says mysteriously. But does he think that ENO can recapture the high old times it enjoyed in the 1980s? "I think it is dangerous for people in opera to harp on about the past. We are all part of a museum culture as it is. The point about ENO is that it could have a great future."

But Daniel is clearly not going to reveal in this conversation whether he will be part of it. What, though, of Opera North? If its productions are as exciting as its marketing,



"Being tipped for a job is difficult," Paul Daniel says. "The assumption is you are willing to abandon your present task."

sudden concern about taste is rather odd, don't you think?

The problem for opera companies is this: when I look in a magazine like *The Face* I don't understand it any more. Pushing 40, I am on the wrong side of a generation gap, and so is our audience. That's why we must reach out to the young. But when we do, we sometimes run into trouble."

There is plenty of sex and death in *Luisa Miller* – and (incidentally) some cracking good music, too. Yet Tim Albery's staging for Opera North (he did a fine *Don Carlos* with Daniel too) will be the opera's first professional British production outside London. "The work is not just blood-and-thunder politics, and it's not just domestic tragedy," Daniel says. "It is a subtle mixture of both. It was a blueprint for Verdi's 'big three', and it's as much an ensemble piece as *Falstaff*."

Daniel's record for reviving the unfamiliar and premiering the new is unrivalled in British opera. He believes that *Luisa Miller* is exactly the sort of work that Opera North should be tackling. "You have to be careful about doing rare works, that's true. Audiences are very choosy now. Gone are the great days of the Eighties, when people would book £150 worth of subscription tickets in one go. But we are determined not to go down the road that leads to popular repertoire and nothing else."

"And the great thing about Opera North is that it is a young ensemble. Most people in the company are tackling this repertoire for the first time. We are coming to it as virgins. So is most of our audience. There is an intense sense of adventure." Just like the advert said, then.

● *Luisa Miller* opens tomorrow at the Grand Theatre, Leeds (0113 246 5906)

## RADIO

## Merry festive run-up

YOU can almost feel the schedulers straining at the leash. The pre-Christmas week offers the opportunity to show a little self-discipline by eschewing anything to do with seasonal programming, the better to justify next week's excess of yule.

But the best of intentions can be breached by the European Broadcasting Union. Last year the EBU co-ordinated *Christmas Around Europe*, a live hook-up which went on for 14 hours. This year that ambitious jaunt has been both extended and contracted. *Christmas Around the World* went out on Radio 3 on Sunday, adding Russia and America to the geographical reach. But whereas it took 14 hours to get around Europe, the world occupied only eight.

I could not hear all of it, but what I did hear – including Greek folk music, Byzantine religious songs, chants from the Russian Orthodox Church and, in the final evening session, spirituals sung by glee clubs in Atlanta – involved a spectacular variety of music sufficient to put to shame narrow British celebrations.

There was, however, some classically English fare on offer in the break between the two parts of *Christmas Around the World*. Sunday Play (Radio 3) had Freddie Jones as Falstaff in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

Maddeningly, the theatrical academics who seek to dictate what is "acceptable" Shakespeare and what is not tend to regard *Merry Wives* as a slight work. In fact it is a vastly entertaining parable of the middle classes.

Jones, playing Falstaff for the first time in a long career, had the nuances exactly right and the piece was assisted, rather than interrupted, by Stephen Warbeck's music, written in the style of the time.

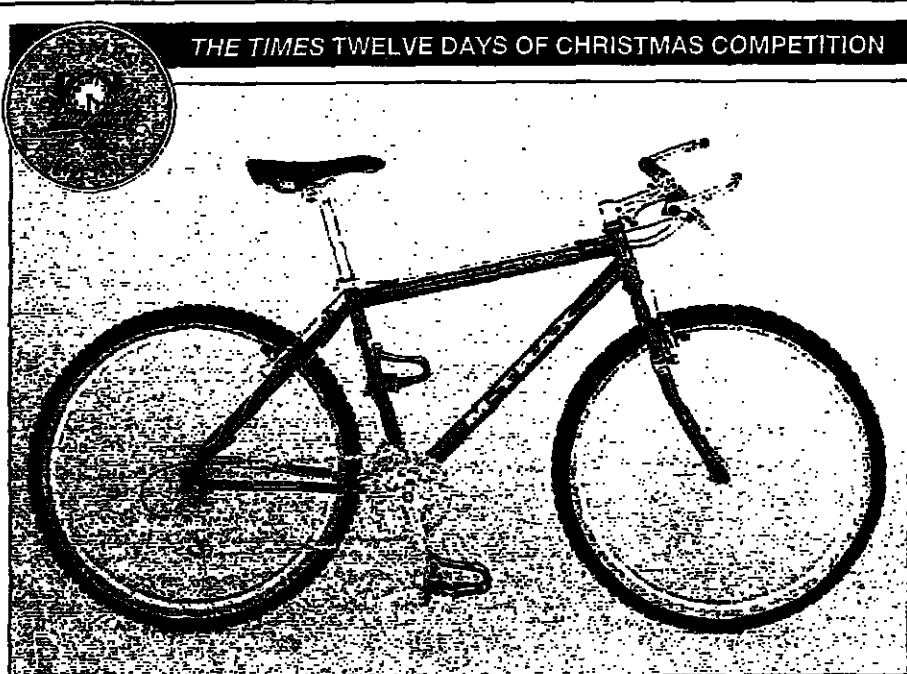
Elsewhere this week, a two-parter called *Two Tales of a City* (Radio 5 Live) was the pick of the documentary output: watch out for part two this Sunday. The theme is sectarianism in Glasgow and the lessons it may offer for Northern Ireland.

Most of the Catholic-Protestant warfare in Glasgow is played out through support for the football teams Rangers and Celtic, and as such it tends to be more of a Saturday pastime than a day-by-day obsession, as reporter Henry McDonald pointed out.

There is, of course, a symbiotic relationship between Belfast and Glasgow, in that Protestants migrated to the latter while Glasgow's Catholic minority is an immigrant population.

The fact that the division is exemplified in the football clubs may say more about football than it does about religion, but there is a particular ugliness surrounding the concept of a mere game used as a vehicle for religious differences. A sobering thought, this week.

PETER BARNARD



## Three Raleigh mountain bikes to be won

Today *The Times*, continuing our Twelve Days of Christmas competition, brings you the chance to win a Raleigh M-Trax 2000 Shimano equipped mountain bike.

In the traditional carol, on the third day of Christmas, your true love would have sent you three French hens, but your favourite newspaper thought a more acceptable – and practical – present would be a prize that will keep the children happy long after the festive season is over.

The bikes are worth £420 each, including delivery. They come in four frame sizes: 16 1/2 inch suitable for 26-32 inch inside leg, 18 inch for 27-32 inch inside leg, 20 inch for 29-34 inch inside leg and 22 inch, for 32-37 inch inside leg.

They have 21 STX gears, titanium handle bars with polished alloy bar ends and black handle grips. The toe clips are quick-release and there is a fitting for double water bottles.

The main specifications include:

Shimano STX transmission controlled from Rapid Fire SL shifters.

M-Trax series one MTB race frame. Exclusive 7 tube cr-mo performance MTB race design, light and giving excellent frame rigidity.

Suspension ready geometry, essential for upgrades. S-bend performance chainstays for stiffness and maximum mud clearance. Light wheel specification with Maxxis Direction Specific race tyres. Alesia rims and stainless spokes.

M-Trax Performance custom designed bar set. Lightweight titanium bar. Forged one piece alloy bar ends. Light forged alloy two bolt racing stem.

HOW TO ENTER Simply identify the following lines from a popular Christmas carol.

And a cold, frosty morning Good morning masters all

Call our competition hotline below with your answer. The line is open until midnight tonight. The first correct entries chosen at random will win. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply.

CALL OUR HOTLINE ON 0891 66 55 34

Calls are charged at 35p per minute (cheap rate and 45p at other times)

THEATRE: Jonathan Harvey goes a bit too far; booing the villains in an alternative panto

## Laughing at the sad

Rupert Street Lonely Hearts Club Criterion

RUPERT STREET is in Bromley-by-Bow and its lonely hearts are at No 15. They are two youngish women who wander into Shaun's bedsit in search of company, and two men, one of them Shaun's gay older brother and the other a butch transvestite with a job at McDonald's. Dean, the tranny, wants Marti, the gay brother; Marti loves Shaun; and Shaun pines for his vegan Juliet, away in Barbados.

This is the latest play from the prolific Jonathan Harvey and, like Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*, is a transfer from the Donmar, where it was co-produced by English Touring Theatre. He has an acute ear for different speech habits, skilfully placing phrases at cross-purposes to generate laughter, of which there is a great deal, chiefly in the first half. He shows daring in his treatment of the

woman from upstairs, who is possibly called Clarine, although she is by no means sure of this.

While not precisely unheeded, her mental hinges are evidently under strain, yet Harvey makes us laugh repeatedly at her breezy attempts at social chatter, all of which go wrong. Elizabeth Berrington gives a brilliant performance as this doxy creature with her adenoidal squeaks, but she and the author walk a tightrope across the ugly chasm of mockery.

Unhappily compounded by Harvey's undoubted mockery of George (Wendy Nottingham), the second woman, a transfixingly boring teacher who knits Javanese-patterned skullcaps, sets off on demos to counter fascism in Welwyn, and is so dreadfully sensible she becomes hilarious.

Marti and Shaun are each constrained by emotional inhibitions that Harvey does not manage to make us believe in. Scot Williams's Shaun is disconsolate and Marti (Tom Higgins, excellent) conceals his fears and shame beneath the royal icing of camp.

I therefore have mixed feelings about the play, but none about the quality of the performances in John Burgess's production. James Bowers's hunky Dean, equally stepping out of his Fiji skirt and feathers and into his Big M uniform, is a moment to cherish.

JEREMY KINGSTON

## Ham, but no turkey

The Streets of Dublin Shaw, Brixton

THIS spoof melodrama, stuffed with absurdly sneaking villains and amusingly sickening goodies, is an enjoyable alternative to the seasonal pile of pantos. Adapting Dion Boucicault's 19th-century barnstormer, which changed its title as it toured (*The Poor of New York*, *The Streets of Islington*, wherever), Counterpoint Theatre Company's full-throttle cast and on-stage pianist make merry with newly added comical songs and Boucicault's own plot. The latter is rife with baddy bankers, blackmail and burning houses, not to mention a suicide attempt by our hero Sir Livingstone's sweet girl Lucy, reduced to beggary but saved for wedding bells in the end.

Fergus Linehan's adaptation frames the play as a production by Boucicault's own travelling players, over-acting something rotten and trying to remember which town the action is set in this time. The placing of this partic-

ular staging in Dublin is peculiar because we have obviously rolled in off the not so fair streets of Brixton. The scaffolding set is, unlike the fine cornucopia, a tad scrappy. The historic spectacular of the burning house is smoke without fire. Still, it fits the scenario of the ropery troupe.

Moreover, the frame, which could result in tired cod-acting, actually lets loose truly funny over-the-top performances under Judith Roberts's high-energy direction. Edmund Kent's gaunt Bloodgood, the banker with evil moustache, speed-counts a wodge of money with mad scrabbling and sings his mean solo. You can boo till you're blue, snapping his fingers like some frightful matador. Adam Meggido is terrific as Bloodgood's small satanic clerk, punctuating his lines with preposterously staccato twists, his legs at angles Edmund Kean never reached.

Peter Land's Boucicault irritates at first with his cloak-swishing and bombastic volume, but Land tickles you increasingly with his vain posturing, indecipherable grin, and sudden bursts of song when supposedly broken-hearted. The production is sharp in its satire of token sympathies with poverty. Meanwhile, the fulsomely trilling suite duet, by Lucy and her mother (Jo Cullen and Judith Paris) sends up sentimental tragedy a treat.

KATE BASSETT



Peter Ackroyd on the Dickens of *Little Dorrit*

# Comfort lost in the pursuit of ecstasy

The three years of Charles Dickens's life covered by this volume were filled with restlessness, energy and anxious labour. They were, in other words, quite characteristic. At one moment he is in Boulogne, the next in Paris, or Dover, or London — "ran across Piccadilly to Stratton Street — stayed there an hour — and shot off here. I have been in four cabs today at a cost of Thirteen Shillings." It is characteristic of him, also, to capitalise the sums of money involved.

And what was he doing in London, this middle-aged and very eminent novelist? He was buying a new house; he was editing a weekly periodical, *Household Words*; he was acting and directing a drama partly written by Wilkie Collins; he was making speeches; he was helping to organise a home for fallen women, even concerning himself with the drainage of the soil and the fabric of the inmates' dresses; he was preparing a series of public readings which would take him all over the country (and which would, eventually, kill him); he was devising his famous Christmas stories.

He was, incidentally, also writing *Little Dorrit* in monthly instalments. "Its always Yesterday with you," a character in one of his Christmas stories puts it, "or else Tomorrow, and never To Day — that's where it is." He repeated the same sentiments directly to John Forster in one of his many sad (if somewhat theatrical) letters during this period, "...to be never at rest, and never satisfied, and ever trying after something that is never reached, and to be always laden with plot and plan and care and worry... As to repose — for some men there's no such thing in this life." He was still as alert and as sprightly as ever — with his military bearing and colourful clothes, he was an exotic creature on the streets of London — but he was beginning to look "care-worn".

We may be inclined to believe that his reference to "plot" in that letter is ambiguous, since all the wonderful drama and mystery of his personality were even then being explored within the chapters of *Little Dorrit*. It

THE LETTERS OF  
CHARLES DICKENS  
Volume 8: 1856-1858  
Edited by Graham Storey  
and Kathleen Tillotson  
OUP, £94

was described by *Blackwood's Magazine* as "twaddle", one of the many thoughtful judgments now being passed upon him by the more intellectual reviewers. Twaddle has never lasted so long, or so brilliantly, however, since the central story and characters of the book are sustained by Dickens's own sense of the fate overtaking him and his coun-



Dickens in 1858: mid-life crisis

try. Yet it is one of his funniest novels, and he laughed out loud as he wrote down the rambling dropical speech of Flora Finching.

The spectacle of Dickens laughing to himself, at the sheer comedy of his own inventiveness, is one of the many arresting images to be found in this latest collection of his correspondence. We see here how much he loved murders and fires, melodramatic scenes from real life and mountebanks from the streets. Everything is extravagantly put "unspeakable", "overwhelming", "paralyzing" and "infinite" are some of his favourite adjectives. In the letters describing his public readings, he revels in all the sobbing and crying which he was able to induce in the audiences. He calls himself "the remarkable man", "the Inimitable" and even, on one occasion, "the under-signed honey pot". He was a master of that humour which in these latter days has been called "camp": of one rather ageing

and precious bachelor he writes, "...he asked me the extraordinary question, 'how Mrs Williams, the American Actress, kept her wig on?' I then perceived that mankind was to be in a conspiracy that he wears his own hair".

So the eye, and the voice, of the novelist are ubiquitous in this correspondence. Of his dismantled study in Tavistock House he remarks on "all the chairs upside down as if they had turned over like birds and died with their legs in the air"; of his landlord in Boulogne he notes that he "went backing up the Avenue, with such a generous, simple, amiable face that I half expected to see him back himself straight into the Evening Star" (which was at the end of it) without going through the ceremony of dying first. He remarks upon the smallest details, like the movements of a gold-finch in a cage, and even organises his letters as if they were indeed substitute works of fiction. In the messages to his somewhat hapless deputy at *Household Words* he reels off items with sub-headings such as "Begging Letters", "You" or "Me". To his illustrator, Hablot Browne, he remarks "Pray do not neglect this change". It is the same despotic streak within his nature that inspired his furious charge against the Royal Literary Fund, with the cry that "I am resolved to reform it or ruin it".

The hardness of the man emerges most clearly, however, in the events that dominate the last half of this volume. He suffered a familiar crisis of middle age, when he suddenly realised that he no longer loved his wife and had become half-disgusted with the course of his existence, but his reactions were never conventional. "I must do something," he wrote in his usual strident manner, "or I shall wear my heart away."

He did do something. He expelled poor Catherine Dickens from his life and his affections without any regret or compunction, literally partitioning their own old bedroom in halves; he began to chase helplessly after a much younger woman, and at the same time to quarrel with his oldest friends. He demanded that a public statement about his affairs be issued in all the leading newspapers, much to the dismay of those who knew him best.

He had finally entered the whirlwind of his own passions, which were so strangely compounded of anger, resentment, anxiety and childhood horror. He could think of nothing but his own position and rode over the feelings of other people, to use one of his own self-images, "like a dragon". He terrified and amazed his children, who were reminded that "their father's name is their best possession". They believed him to have gone mad.

This crisis of his middle age cast a long shadow during his last years he became a much more hysterical and even maniacal figure. Yet he kept on writing. He knew by now that the gift of genius did not necessarily ensure a good character, but he had the certain belief that "my Books will speak for themselves and me, when I and my faults and virtues, my fortunes and misfortunes, are all forgotten". These letters speak for him, also, and it only remains to congratulate the editors of this volume for their skillful and resourceful reconstruction of the brilliant, desperate world of "the Sparkler".



Portrait of girl and pet monkey (1938-39) by Claude Lévi-Strauss: one of many pictures by the great anthropologist in his *Sauvages Do Brasil: A Photographic Memoir*, Univ. of Washington Press, £26.95 (UK distributor: Biblos)

## Last stand of the printed word

FOR MANY of my boyhood years, I had a source of information on which I felt I could always depend. *Newnes Pictorial Knowledge*, a ten-volume set that had Enid Blyton, no less, as associate editor, gave me a basic understanding of nature, history and — my favourite — fable, myth and legend, as well as providing a guide to such arcana as How Television Works. The Art of Walt Disney and Good Manners for Boys and Girls. When I outgrew *Newnes*, I felt genuinely sad and never really found an adequate substitute. No doubt the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* would have done the trick, but we couldn't afford that and there didn't seem to be much in between.

Today, the market is crowded and technologically advanced. My son's generation want Encarta or Grolier CD-Rom packages for their computers, and other multimedia encyclopaedias are already appearing to offer competition. Soundbites (from Neil Armstrong on the Moon, Kennedy's inaugural address, Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" speech) exist alongside 3D representations of Saturn and a slowed-up examination of how a cheetah brings down its prey. History unfolds as a series of juxtaposed events and ideas that, in some cases, seem to leap out of the screen.

It is all very exciting. But the printed word is not done yet. This Christmas, the

### ENCYCLOPAEDIAS

eight-volume *Hutchinson Unabridged Encyclopedia (Helicon, £199)* goes on sale, providing a first-class work of reference that manages to be both comprehensive and concise while employing the latest, computer-based graphics. These are volumes to browse through for pleasure as well as to consult, properly pitched at the interested adult as well as the discriminating teenager, and they seem bang up-to-date.

HUTCHINSON'S, while generally middlebrow in its approach, really tries to cover the ground. Thus, the interested inquirer can find out about President Bush's funding of the Nicaraguan Contras on a spread that also describes the industrial relations practice of "contracting out", *contrapostos* poses in the visual arts and the mysteries of continental drift. A decent biographical list is also included, while the maps and descriptions of countries, their histories, economies and forms of government, are not only current, but encouragingly objective.

Since this is an alphabetically arranged enterprise, the extensive index, taking up more than half the last volume, might seem a little superfluous, but it

does actually serve a useful function, linking ideas, individuals and concepts so that they can be looked up even when not separately listed.

For those who want an abridged, less up-to-the-minute edition of the same work for one twentieth of the price, the *Wordsworth Encyclopedia* is available, in five volumes, for just £9.99. This includes 26,000 entries, 200 photographs and 300 line drawings and maps, and is remarkable value.

The new edition of the one-volume *Guinness Encyclopedia (Guinness, £35)* restricts its information to just 784 large-format pages, but appears to leave little out. It is a thematic volume, lavishly illustrated and with a superb maps and country reference section. It passes the Bosnia test with flying colours, taking its information right up to the recent ceasefires, and will also please those who feel that no compendium of human knowledge is complete without a photograph of Arnold Schwarzenegger in *Terminator 2*.

In its section on newspapers, journalists are described as "people who do not know much but do know how to find out everything". A little harsh perhaps, but *The Guinness Encyclopedia* is certainly one more way of finding out.

WALTER ELLIS

## From the banks of the sacred Ganges

Tunku  
Varadarajan

THE HEART OF  
INDIA  
By Mark Tully  
Viking, £16



Tully: our man in Delhi

in Benares and becomes "modern": an *ikha* (pony-trap) driver whose life is changed by modern technology. There is no gratuitous use of Hobson-Jobson; his characters drink toddy and occasionally call each other things like *behenchod* and *chutniya*, vulgarisms which Cox & King's, the oldest tour operator to the sub-

continent, would never tell its customers about.

In the directness of his style and parable, Tully has taken Munshi Premchand, the Indi-

an novelist, as his model. Premchand wrote his novels and short stories in the first third of this century; and his succinct tales were set in the parts of India which Tully knows best.

The states of the Indo-Gangetic plain are India's most populous and quintessential. Tully has spent many years rummaging around there, in the country's "cow belt", looking for both political insights and stories. The former he has given to us, famously, over the radio; the latter he now gives us in this charming collection.

Tully's language is simple and unadorned. In this, too, he

resembles Premchand, whose use of demotic Hindustani was a radical departure from the high-flown formalism of classical Indian literature.

Tully does not preach here, nor does he seem to take sides. He has, instead, the mansuetude of a storyteller at peace with his characters. "I hope the stories are accepted," he writes in his Introduction, "as they are intended to be — a tribute to the Indian village".

They certainly are, that, and a very effective one, too. The home-spun simplicity of rural India is caught nicely in Tully's observations. Nor does the glee and piquant humour escape him. There is also, in the north Indian countryside, a certain languid wistfulness: it is that which drew Premchand there, and later drew Tully. And that is what makes *The Heart of India* such a pleasant, fitting book.

The Pegasus Prize was founded in 1977 by the Mobil Corporation, for literature which is rarely translated into English. "Rasero", the lengthy publisher's note explains, won out of 427 entries in the Latin American division before a panel of distinguished jurors. With such hype the book has a very difficult task in fulfilling its readers' expectations. That it fails to do so is due to Rebollo's over-ambitions attempt to combine the whimsy of magic realism with the accuracy of historical fiction. The result is a wooden pastiche which, compounded with an unfortunate translation, fails to do justice to Rebollo's ideas.

## A sex and logic-chopping novel

Amanda Foreman

RASERO  
By Francisco Rebollo  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £15.99

depths of depravity awaiting mankind. In his search for a meaning to life, he has a series of encounters with the greatest philosophers of the age. This allows Rebollo to take his readers on a tour of ideas, beginning with Descartes and encompassing Voltaire, Rousseau and Lavoisier.

But with one eye on Derrida, Rebollo suggests that true meaning lies in the structure behind ideas. At the end of the novel the narrator is revealed as Rasero's 20th-century descendant Francisco. The two men share one consciousness: the actions of one simultaneously affect the other. The structure of life, Rebollo seems to argue, is a circle, and that meaning is more symbolism.

The sophistication of the novel's ideas is not matched by their rendering into English. With lines like "She was one of

the few respectable ladies of the country who dared use this daring cosmetic touch", Rasero can seem embarrassingly amateurish. Yet even with a poor translation, parts of the book shine with imaginative vigour. Rebollo is capable of a lush, romantic style reminiscent of Gabriel Garcia Márquez.

Most of the time, however, he is distracted by the urge to land his pages with facts. Too often his characters launch into soliloquies which sound as though copied from an encyclopaedia. When a writer

places so much emphasis on historical detail he puts himself under judgment, asking his readers to accept his disquisitions on trust. What are we to make, then, of such clangers as calling Count Axel Fersen, Marie-Antoinette's reputed lover, Hans Fersen? Or take Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, who went to Turkey in 1716 and brought back smallpox inoculation: Rebollo robs her of her title, marries her to the Montagu family, no relation to the Wortley Montagus, and retards her discovery by a decade.

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A new life of the man who created Sherlock Holmes fails to explain his abiding obsession with spiritualism, argues Ian McIntyre

## Elementary clues to a study in obstinacy

CONAN DOYLE  
By Michael Coren  
Bloomsbury, £18.99

Anyone with ambitions to write a life of Arthur Conan Doyle faces several dispiriting obstacles. One is that many of Conan Doyle's papers, a valuable source for several earlier biographies, are no longer open to public scrutiny. Another is that many putative readers are much less interested in Conan Doyle than in his most famous fictional creation. (Large numbers of Sherlockians will, I realise, bridle at the word "fictional". Perhaps I may proceed unnoted if I acknowledge that the lodgings in Baker Street are rooted even more deeply in the virtual reality of English life than The Bull at Ambridge.)

"Of the numerous books published about Conan Doyle," Coren declares — hubristically, some may feel — "many are best left alone." He has a point, though. The best argument for a new biography is that none of those we already have is entirely satisfactory. Hesketh Pearson's short study, published during the war, is a lively enough read, but shies away from any serious examination of Conan Doyle's spiritualism. John Dickson Carr's *Life* is more solid, though the American's reverential tone does not fall altogether easily on British ears.

Conan Doyle's French biographer, Pierre Weil-Norden, although not notable for Gallic

sparkle, made a substantial contribution in the 1960s, admirably translated into English by Frances Partridge. Some of the most penetrating writing about Conan Doyle is in Owen Dudley Edwards's *The Quest for Sherlock Holmes* (1983), but he carries the story only up to Conan Doyle's late twenties.

All the more surprising, then, given the scope for the extension of the biographical quest begun by Edwards, that Coren should set his sights so modestly. Coren does not linger over the early Edinburgh days (lips will be pursued in Conan Doyle's and Miss Jean Brodie's native city at the misspelling on line three of a prominent topographical landmark). The young Arthur Ignatius is soon back from Stonyhurst and Feldkirch — remarkably well-adjusted. Coren feels, given the rigours of his Jesuit education — and immersed in medical studies.

In his spare time he was already writing steadily, mainly adventure stories and historical romances. *Chambers Journal* accepted *The*

*Mystery of Sarassu Valley* and paid him three guineas. He was already questioning and soon rejected his Roman Catholicism. He was, he wrote later, "driven to agnosticism, but never to atheism, for I had a very keen perception of the wonderful poise of the universe." The first stirrings of his interest in spiritualism date from the early 1880s.

By the end of that decade he had had some success with an historical novel, published the first Holmes story, and decided to abandon medicine for literature. Within a couple of years he was telling his mother that Holmes was about to vanish, never to reappear. "I saw that I was in danger of having my hand forced," he wrote in his memoirs, "and of being entirely identified with what

I regarded as a lower stratum of literary achievement." His public was not pleased. Complaints were sent to MPs and the Prince of Wales and Conan Doyle received threatening letters.

Coren does his best, within the compass of his 200 pages, to tell the rest of the colourful story — the knighthood for propaganda services in the Boer War, Conan Doyle's defence of Roger Casement, his attempts to enter Parliament, his row with Bernard Shaw over the sinking of the *Titanic*. He touches on the bewildering range of causes and controversies which Conan Doyle embraced — the need for a new international language, the organisation of British sports, divorce law reform and the Loch Ness monster.

Conan Doyle's first full book on spiritualism, *The New Revelation*, appeared when the First World War was ending, and from then until his death in 1930 the subject eclipsed his interest in all else. He travelled extensively, lectured, took part in seances, made friends

(and then fell out) with Houdini, opened and managed a psychic bookshop and museum.

In the preface of his last book he quoted a passage from *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*: "She was one of those persons who have allowed their lives to be gnawed away because they have fallen in love with an idea, several centuries before its appointed appearance in the history of civilisation. She hurled herself against the obstinacy of her time."

The central weakness of Coren's book is that it fails to give a sufficiently coherent and convincing account of why Conan Doyle hurled himself against the obstinacy of his time in the way he did. The question is addressed with greater insight and assurance by both his French and American biographers.

Coren, praised here and in America for his biographies of Wells and Chesterton, defines his intention as being to describe Conan Doyle the man — an amalgam of the doctor, the adventurer, the journalist and above all the spiritualist. He concedes that it is what Holmes once called "quite a three-pipe problem". The conclusion at the end of this too-brief biographical sketch must be that on this occasion Coren did not have enough tobacco in his pouch.



Conan Doyle in the Boer War: Britain's staunchest advocate

## Footfalls in the Abbey

David Ekserdjian

WESTMINSTER ABBEY AND THE PLANTAGENETS  
By Paul Binski  
Yale, £45

ROUBILIAC AND THE 18TH-CENTURY MONUMENT  
Sculpture as Theatre  
By David Bindman and Malcolm Baker  
Yale, £40

If you go to school at Westminster — as I did — then the Abbey is your school chapel. Being stared at every morning of my first term by Epstein's terrifying bust of Blake, I was left in no doubt that this was an extraordinary place. The publication of two books wholly or partly concerned with it, together with the catalogue of an exhibition devoted to the various restorations it has undergone over the last 900 years, only serves to confirm that sense. The great thing about the Abbey is that it has never stopped being added to, although it has to be admitted that not all the changes have been for the better. Above all, it is a unique record of our nation's history, and its nearest continental equivalents do not begin to compare. Even if you managed to amalgamate Saint-Denis and the Pantheon, or crossed St Peter's with Santa Croce, the results would fall short of the mark.

Paul Binski's study is concerned with the Abbey in the 13th and 14th centuries, and focuses on the relationship between the building and its contents and the royal family. This is art history with the emphasis on the history, but Binski is no dusty antiquarian whose senses swim at the discovery of a new fragment of this or that. Names of such figures as Habermas and Hobsbawm are liberally spattered about the text, and act as reminders of the fact that medievalists have generally proved more willing to cosy up to the modernistic strategies — to use a favourite word — of the New Art History than their Renaissance counterparts. But little here will frighten the horses, and the observation that works of art do not simply reflect the history of ideas, but are instead a part of it, is an important one.

The royal tombs in the Abbey, which stretch on beyond the historical limits of Binski's Plantagenet brief, are nevertheless confined to the east end, where the magnificent tomb of Henry VII by Torregiano (whose other, murkier claim to fame is that he broke the young Michelangelo's nose in a punch-up) is the grand finale. By the 18th

century, however, not even moderate eminence, far less supreme distinction, were regarded as prerequisites for being buried — or having a monument — in the Abbey. Some exceptionally mediocre specimens got in, as becomes clear from a new study of Roubiliac, many of whose finest efforts in the funerary line grace the Abbey, by David Bindman and Malcolm Baker.

One of the many fascinating issues they address is the correct way to universalise the achievements of the resolutely undistinguished. Roubiliac failed to secure the commission for the monument to Wolfe of Quebec, who met a hero's end on the Heights of Abraham, with a design for a crypto-Pietà, having previously produced a number of successful monuments for generals and admirals who died in their beds. Another violent death inspired the most far-flung of all Roubiliac's efforts in Port Royal, Jamaica, but Lieutenant Stapleton being blown up by his own cannon is far from glamorous. Bindman describes the scene as unparalleled in its lack of heroism, but the monument in the Abbey to Thomas Thynne (died 1682), who was "barbarously murdered in the Haymarket", and is shown in his carriage being shot at by Königsmark's hired assassins armed with flintlocks would appear to represent some sort of precedent.

If the Bindman contribution to this particularly well-matched pantomime horse concerns the why, then Malcolm Baker gives us the how,



This monument in Staglieno cemetery, Genoa, is among many voluptuous funerary statues photographed by David Robinson in *Saving Graces* (Norton, £18.95/£10.95)

and a catalogue of the monuments to boot. His close attention to technical detail, especially with regard to how these great machines were actually assembled, makes this section utterly compelling. It is rewarding to be forced to realise that the tombs did not just drop into position from on

high, fully formed, but instead dwells upon such implausible tricks of fate as the concatenation of circumstances that have caused the remains of Grinling Gibbons's Whitehall altarpiece, carved by Arnold Quellin, to end up in the obscure parish church of St Andrew's in Burnham-on-Sea.

The exhibition of the Abbey's restorations has been and gone, but the book richly deserves to live on. It tells a

fascinating story well, and dwells upon such implausible tricks of fate as the concatenation of circumstances that have caused the remains of Grinling Gibbons's Whitehall altarpiece, carved by Arnold Quellin, to end up in the obscure parish church of St Andrew's in Burnham-on-Sea.

## Whose light is spent?

Adam Zeman

ON BLINDNESS  
By Bryan Magee and Martin Milligan  
OUP, £16.99

I AM WATCHING the branches of a willow playing in the breeze, picked out against the last light of the sunset. A flick of my eyes brings a page of a book into view. As natural as breathing, sight offers the seeing its pleasures and its uses in every moment of our waking lives.

How is the mental universe of the blind, especially those blind from birth, affected by the lack of man's pre-eminent sense? *On Blindness* is a timely, absorbing and poignant exploration of this issue, in the form of a correspondence between two notable philosophers: Bryan Magee, known to many from television, and Martin Milligan, professor of philosophy at Leeds, a man blind almost from birth. The letters are widely ranging, but return repeatedly to one key question: what can the seeing know that the blind cannot?

Magee launched the correspondence to back a philosophical conviction: that we have a tendency to take the world as we perceive it for reality itself. We forget that the human mind only allows us a quirky partial view. In this sense we are all in the predicament of

that the blind have an impoverished "conception of reality".

Philosophy begins and ends in argument; the exchange of letters is an old and excellent framework for it. The authors' personalities shine through the dialogue: Magee is expansive, disputatious, provocative; Milligan is measured, acute, reflective, to the point.

Who gets the better of the argument? Milligan is persuasive defending his claim that the blind can know almost "everything about colour and other visible things which sighted people know". He gives a marvellous account of darkness, as implying "difficulty in perception, the unknown and incomprehensible, threat and danger, and also sometimes warmth, privacy and safety against intrusive perceptions by others".

But surely, you may well object, a blind person misses out on what really matters about visible things: how they look. Sadly we will never know how Milligan would have developed his reply. In the course of the correspondence he fell ill, and within weeks the partial darkness with which he had contended for so long became complete.

## Untimely timelessness

Robert Nye is one of that dying breed, the poetic poet. In his other career as a novelist he seems drawn principally to themes that include the legendary and the magical, in semi-biographical fiction on figures such as Gilles de Rais, Faust and Merlin. His poems are at their strongest when they resemble incantations. *Self-Curse* begins like this:

Bitter, be bitterer;  
Rue, be more rueful;  
Ghost go through you  
And not you them.

It is significant perhaps, that Nye, who was born in England, now lives in Ireland. There is a grand tradition of cursing in Irish poetry. I wish more English poets would indulge in it occasionally.

Humour is always rare in lyrical poetry. I could have done with a little more of the street-wisdom which caused the author to picture his grandmother saying: "Right? Just you bugger off, you bird! to a nightingale at the end of Riposte. It gives a

Book-lovers everywhere will sympathise. But the poem is not entirely tragic, and goes on to end almost mystically: the baked book gives off "a whiff of incense".

While there is much to be praised in the melody of individual lines and stanzas, the thing that I find slightly odd about Nye's work is the fact that it does not seem to

belong to the time in which it was written. Robert Nye was born at the start of the Second World War, but there is nothing about the war or its aftermath in his poems; indeed, there are remarkably few references to modern life. All but one or two of these poems could have been written fifty, perhaps even a hundred years ago.

William was the Douglas-Horne who became a playwright — in contrast to his brothers that powerful Border clan: Alec, the politician, and Henry, the bird-man. He had a long and prolific innings, writing 45 plays that were produced (eight more than William Shakespeare), but over more than 50 years. The productivity and length of his career damaged his critical reputation. And some of his plays weren't much good either.

He started writing plays at Eton and Oxford, and never wanted to do anything else. They were the well-made light comedies and Galsworthy social dramas, which are treated demotically by television soaps today, for the blue-ribboned coach trade. Some of them, such as *The Reluctant Debutante* and *The Chiltern Hundreds*, were top of the middle-class pops. A typical Douglas-Horne comedy might feature duchesses and debutantes, jai-litters and lovable bookies, bishops and actresses, with much ado on the telephone and misunderstandings in the library. There would be no evil or squalor, and even his stage villains would be given witty exit lines. Appearing in it would be the

## Brave, but old world

Philip Howard

WILL  
A Portrait of William Douglas-Horne  
By David Fraser  
André Deutsch, £17.99

fruitiest character actors in the business: A.E. Matthews, Wilfrid Hyde-White, Anna Massey, Celia Johnson.

His craft was superseded by the postwar drama of the "kitchen-sink" and "angry young men", by satire and social realism for a less deferential age. New Comedy took over from Old. While his nephew Charles Douglas-Horne was Editor of *The Times*, William kept hanging in his half-lavatory a message to Charlie: "Sack Irving Wardle" (Wardle was theatre critic of *The Times*, and then the best in the business). He was sensitive to criticism and pig-headed about producers who tried to improve his scripts. So he made brave curtain speeches to hecklers in defence of plays that had been booed, and invited all theatre

critics to debate their judgments on stage. Not surprisingly, none of them turned up.

Douglas-Horne was a butterfly who wanted to be a bee. He was an idealist who stood for Parliament in favour of appeasement to try to avoid the Hitler war. He was cashiered and sent to Wormwood Scrubs for refusing an order to join in the destruction of Le Havre. Appeasement — literally, making peace — is a noble act, but it does not enhance the career prospects of junior officers who have taken the king's commission at the end of a bloody war. Like P.G. Wodehouse, he was out of touch with the national life-and-death desperation about the war. But whereas Wodehouse's butlers and bright young things and pig-keeping peers are timeless because they live in Never-Never Land, Douglas-Horne's have dated because they are taken from his family and friends at the Hirst before the world earthquakes of war and postwar.

Appropriately, silly-ass "Johnners", Brian Johnston, was William's lifelong friend from Eton. When William lost



William Douglas-Horne

his driving licence at Oxford in the Brideshead Thirties, Johnston acted as his groom while he drove himself to lectures in a phaeton. At his wedding at St Peter's, Eton Square, Johnston instructed his fellow ushers, "Friends of the bridegroom on the left, bride on the right." Wrungers, Johnners! So half way through the tide of hats and cravats, he had to bow. "Sorry! Change over!" Bunfellers give more passing pleasure than bees or wasps. Their best memorials are their ephemeral beauty rather than their attempts to improve the lot of mankind,

which is a dodgy enterprise at the best of times, and usually counterproductive. William wanted to change the world. But instead he was condemned to amuse the theatre-going part of it. His plays are still popular in France, because they confirm French prejudice against British snobbery and eccentricity. He wanted to restore his honour after his rebellion in battle. But he did not need to. His honour and courage were never in doubt. Only his obstinacy (characteristic of his clan) prevailed.

This loving sketch, written by William's friend and neighbour and a senior military Establishment figure, makes clear what a charming, decent but impossible creature this Douglas-Horne was. Most of them are. The moral, legal and military argument over the bombardment of Le Havre is given vast space for a small incident in war. "But not small to me," Douglas-Horne said, 50 years on: "It was very, very BIG and still is." There are jolly Drones Club, High Life anecdotes, and critical summaries of the works. But as with all playwrights, his true biography rests in his plays. A talent to amuse is not to be laughed at. But it has the lifespan of a butterfly.

Fiona Pitt-Kethley

COLLECTED POEMS  
By Robert Nye  
Sinclair-Stevenson, £15

pleasing turnaround to the mock-Keatsian style of the lines that preceded. More often Nye is tempted to turn the clock back centuries, as in his poem about the White City stadium, where all the punters sound like alchemists. He seems more comfortable in a Victorianised medieval world, peopled by Joan of Arc, Robin Hood and King Arthur. These are not real heroes and heroines, but the sanitised versions that appear in Kipling's *Puck of Pook's Hill* or Sunday School prize-books of the last century.

The poems are arranged chronologically, and the later sections are more autobiographical. I enjoyed *Childhood Incident*, where Mrs Nye Senior roasts his grubby copy of Elizabeth Barrett Browning to kill the germs: "I can still see those pages that curled and cracked, and the limp green leather cover that peeled away like lichen. From the body of the book and the edges turning gold, And the hot glue's hiss and bubble down the spine."

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Air UK, Britain's third largest scheduled airline - with over 1500 weekly domestic and international flights - is growing fast.

You should be 20 - 35 years old and between 1.57m (5'2") and 1.78m (5'10") tall with weight in proportion. And

A glance at our map shows you how far we fly - and the ability to speak to our customers in their own language is an important part of our high-quality service.

That's why, all through 1996, we'll be looking for responsible, outgoing people who have a second European language.

If you're a European passport-holder, you could join our cabin crew at one of the eleven airports below:

London Stansted; Norwich; Humberside; Manchester; Newcastle; Aberdeen; Glasgow; Leeds/Bradford; Edinburgh; Jersey/Guernsey (subject to local licences).

Ltd, Stansted House, Stansted Airport, Essex CM24 1AE.



you'll have the commitment and character to provide the highest standards of customer care. Indeed, you'll already have experienced work in the front line of a customer-orientated environment.

Spread your wings. Send a postcard stating your name, address and telephone number, plus your height, weight, age, date of birth and languages spoken, to: Jennie Thompson, Cabin Staff Recruitment, Ref ST01, Air UK

**AirUK**

## GENSLER

**We are seeking a Senior Project Architect to join our London office to help develop its business in the UK and Europe.**

*You will need to be a professionally qualified architect with 10-15 years experience. Your experience will include shell-and-core and fit-out for large corporate users, and major project management. Experience with commercial, professional and entertainment projects will be preferred. You will also have a thorough knowledge of CAD Intergraph software and excellent CAD production, co-ordination and design skills.*

*The successful candidate will have strong business skills and a proven track record of directing and training colleagues (particularly in CAD techniques), managing project staffing, scheduling and consultant co-ordination in a flexible, fast-paced team working office.*

Salary: Around £35,000 per annum

Candidates should send their CV and a non-returnable copy of their CAD portfolio to arrive no later than 21 Jan 1996 to: Personnel Department, Gensler, Roman House, Wood Street, London EC2Y 5BA

An equal opportunity employer.

## ASSET SWAP TRADER

Our client, a major financial institution, is looking for a high calibre Asset Swap Trader to join its Fixed Income business.

The successful candidate should have a minimum of eight years treasury experience with at least five years of multi-currency Asset Swap experience in an international environment.

The candidate should also have a strong credit background and proven technical experience of the debt market and be educated to MBA level in a quantitative-based subject.

In the first instance, please send your full CV and covering letter to RH6043, Stafford Long & Partners Recruitment Limited, 30-32 Whitfield Street, London W1P 6HR.

RECRUITMENT ADVERTISING & PARTNERS



RECRUITMENT ADVERTISING & PARTNERS

## Quantitative risk management to £45,000 plus full range of benefits

The bank wants to hire a qualified applied mathematician or physicist to PhD standard to join a quantitative risk group. The group's function is to provide a coherent approach across all traded markets from cash products to highly structured derivatives. The opportunity will provide introduction to a variety of traded instruments, and an overview and feel for a sometimes fragmented market.

The position involves close contact with traders; complex ideas and information need to be exchanged efficiently, sometimes under intense pressure. This should be an attraction to you. The right person will either have some relevant commercial experience after completing a first degree, or will have recently completed a PhD. In either case, you should have worked continuously with probability distributions, modelling techniques for linear and non-linear systems and complex parameter definition.

Appropriate past candidates have included computational fluid dynamicists, particle physicists and applied mathematicians. A key feature of financial markets is that they test ideas quickly and thoroughly; successful candidates have been able to demonstrate in interviews a desire to apply themselves to this test.

If this interests you call Nick Hodson or Jonathan Duckfield - do not send your CV yet.

Recruitment Matters, 15 Great Eastern Street, London EC2A 3EJ  
Telephone: 0171-377 1600/0171-814 9900 Fax: 0171-377 1801

هكذا من الأصل



## From vision... ..to reality

## IT MANAGER

A major success story in the area of converging technology, this £40 million company is a wholly owned subsidiary of a leading international communications group, with a high profile reputation for engineering innovation and manufacturing excellence.

ELECTRONICS  
DESIGN &  
MANUFACTURE£40,000  
BenefitsSouth  
Hants

Reporting to the Financial Controller you will assume full responsibility for an expanding 300 screen client/server environment supporting Engineering, Manufacturing, Finance, Sales, Marketing and Personnel. Of graduate calibre and with at least 10 years experience, preferably gained within a manufacturing environment, your background will include periods spent in systems analysis and software development, as well as hardware specification and operations.

Other specific requirements for this stimulating post include: exposure to Unix and relational database systems; knowledge of modern LAN and WAN network topologies; MRP (ideally Swan or similar) software; development of Management Information Systems (MIS) and the setting up and running of a company-wide Help Desk.

The vision is total integration. The way forward is challenging and demanding and will call for technical and people management skills second to none. Obviously, the rewards will adequately reflect the importance of the role and the package will include relocation assistance where appropriate.

If you feel you can meet the challenge and the criteria outlined above, we would like to hear from you. Please write with full CV and salary details to: Ramsey Hall Limited, Avenue House, 62 The Avenue, Southampton, Hampshire SO17 1XS, quoting reference no: S01289/ST, or e-mail ramseyh@headhunt.demon.co.uk.

All applications will be acknowledged and handled in the strictest confidence.



SEARCH • SELECTION • ASSESSMENT

PUBLIC &amp; HEALTHCARE

## Head of Planning

Leeds (but with some work in London)  
£37,400 to £55,802 (including performance related pay)

The period 1994-96 is one of considerable change for the central management of the NHS, with the abolition of Regional Health Authorities and the establishment of a reshaped NHS Executive as the headquarters of the NHS. An important objective of these changes is that the NHS Executive should become more strategic, giving clearer direction and leadership to the NHS focused around a small number of key priorities, underpinned by strategies to support desirable change and development in the NHS.

The Head of Planning is a new post established to support the achievement of this objective. Key responsibilities will be to manage the annual planning and priorities cycle with the NHS, and to develop the NHS Executive's approach to strategic planning, drawing on best practice from other organisations in both public and private sectors.

You will have a well-developed sense of strategy; high quality analytical and conceptual skills; high quality interpersonal skills, and the ability to work with Ministers, top officials and senior managers in the Department of Health and

NHS. You will be expected to have knowledge and experience of strategic planning in a large public or private sector organisation and to have a record of achievement commensurate with this post. Knowledge and experience of the NHS is desirable but not essential.

This post will be offered on an indefinite contract. Secondment terms can also be considered.

For an informal discussion about the post, please contact the Director of Planning, Alasdair Liddell on 0113 254 5807.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 18th January 1996), write to Recruitment & Assessment Services, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 7JB, or telephone 01256 468551 or fax 01256 846374/846660.

Please quote reference B2775.

As an equal opportunities employer the Department of Health welcomes applications regardless of gender, race, disability or sexuality.



RAS

WE ARE SEEKING TO APPOINT  
HEALTH AUTHORITY CHIEF EXECUTIVES  
FOR TWO NEW AUTHORITIES  
TO SERVE:

- WEST HERTFORDSHIRE
- EAST & NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE

Salary: DGM Band 1 - Plus Benefits

## THE POST

The Secretary of State recently announced the creation of two new Health Authorities: West Hertfordshire and East & North Hertfordshire Health Authorities are to be created with effect from 1 April 1996. We are looking to appoint two high calibre Chief Executives for these Authorities. The postholders will be responsible for promoting and improving the health of over 517,000 and 490,000 residents respectively. 33% of the allocation across the county is delegated to GPHs/total purchasing pilots.

## THE PERSON

The successful candidates will have a degree and extensive experience at Chief Executive level in a large NHS organisation, together with a demonstrable track record of delivering challenging and complex agendas. Strong leadership qualities are essential, as are well developed strategic management skills. Evidence of successful high level working relationships will be necessary.

## KEY CHALLENGES

To develop effective and integrated commissioning with particular emphasis on securing value and quality in the purchasing of primary, community and secondary care.

To plan and deliver a carefully managed complex organisational change agenda creating a new and dynamic organisation, including the support of county-wide working where appropriate.

A particular focus for both of these Chief Executive posts will be to continue to lead the Authorities towards a Primary Care led NHS.

## THE REWARDS

A substantial package incorporating a competitive salary and particular emphasis on continuing development of the successful candidates.

For an information pack, please contact Moyra Vermeulen at North Thames Regional Health Authority, 40 Eastbourne Terrace, London, W2 3OR, telephone 0171 725 5315. For an informal telephone enquiry, please contact Ron Kier, Regional Director, North Thames Regional Health Authority on 0171 725 5427.

Shortlisting will take place early in January with interviews expected mid January.

Closing date: 5 January 1996

As an equal opportunities employer applications are welcomed regardless of gender, race, disability or sexuality.

North  
ThamesRegional Health  
Authority

We are an established group practice of five Doctors with a reputation for providing high quality primary medical care in a friendly and efficient setting. The practice operates from two separate villages, in one of which we are presently building a purpose-designed surgery (completion June 1996). Fundraising status will be achieved in April 1996.

At this time of change and innovation we are seeking a candidate with the ability to combine the roles of Practice Business Manager and Manager of the fundholding budget for 7000 patients.

The successful applicant will be skilled at managing people, especially at initiating and implementing change. We are looking for an excellent communicator, a strong negotiator, an IT enthusiast and a proven financial administrator. This is an opportunity for a talented professional with at least three years' experience of managing a small/medium size business. South Devon is an area of great natural beauty with outstanding scenic facilities and excellent schools.

GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTICE  
BUSINESS & FUNDHOLDING  
MANAGERSOUTH DEVON COAST - TORBAY  
Salary: £29 - 35,000 (plus benefits)

If this post interests you please write with your CV by 31 December to:

Dr Simon Giles and Partners  
Health Centre, Kingskerswell, Devon TQ12 3DJ  
INTERVIEWS MID-JANUARYCommercial  
Director  
SPORTS & LEISURE

City Centre Leisure, a leading UK sports and leisure management company is seeking an experienced operations director to develop its business and results. The company has been successful and is proud of its reputation. It is ambitious and planned growth through the second round of COT has already begun.

Send CV and letter demonstrating your experience relevant to developing the profitability of retail, hospitality, sports and leisure centres to:

Roger Quinton, RQA Ltd, Sussex Business Village, Lake Lane, West Sussex PO22 0AL

Tel: 01243 555111  
Fax: 01243 555555

## EUROPEAN DIRECTOR

Circa £35,000 plus benefits and car

Based in Exeter

The six Training and Enterprise Councils of the South West are working with the business community, and with partner organisations, to direct and promote the economic development of the region. As European Union involvement in a broad spectrum of industrial and commercial activities becomes still more vital to business growth, the opportunities for a European Director to take the initiative on behalf of the South West TECs have multiplied to make this role one of considerable influence and exciting challenge.

The SWTEC's European Director will be responsible, over a three-year fixed term contract, for establishing the high level governmental rapport necessary to maximise EU input to the region by representation at national and international level. The role is a managerial, as well as an ambassadorial one, however, requiring a firm grasp

of business strategy and planning, as well as a specific understanding of the economic profile of the South West.

For a Europhile graduate, ideally fluent in at least one other European language, with a track record demonstrating a full knowledge of EU processes, proven negotiation and communication skills and a vigorous, constructive management style, this position offers real involvement in the practical application of policy. Based in the City of Exeter, but travelling extensively in the UK and Europe, you should have a full driving licence and be I.T. literate.

To apply, please write with a comprehensive CV to Kathryn Graham, Human Resources Dept, Devon & Cornwall TEC, Foliot House, Budshead Road, Crowhill, Plymouth PL6 5XR to arrive no later than Friday 12 January 1996.



## ACCOUNT DIRECTORS

- INVESTOR IN PEOPLE NATIONAL STANDARD

Salary £28,000 - £31,000

London East Training and Enterprise Councils (LETEC) is a leading business training and development organisation, covering an area of six inner London boroughs and surrounding areas, some 27,000 businesses.

As part of a major re-positioning of its investment in business training and development, LETEC is seeking to recruit a number of Account Directors to develop and implement its business training and development strategy in the marketing and implementation of this investment.

Reporting directly to the Executive Director, you will develop and implement a substantial portfolio of accounts, introducing the standards and processes which those clients to achieve accreditation and the resultant business benefits.

## The ideal candidate will have:

- Experience of Senior management in a medium or large company environment.
- A successful track record of achievement in sales and account management in a 'blue chip' business to business services environment.
- Experience of quality systems and Investor in People.
- Strong interpersonal skills and the demonstrable ability to influence senior executives in medium and large companies.

- Highly developed communications skills.
- A degree level education.

For an application form and further details contact: Marie Brooks, Acting Personnel Officer, 3rd Floor, Cityside House, 40 Adler Street, London E1 1EE or call 0171 377 8874 (Answerphone).

Completed application forms should be returned by 8th January, 1996.

LETEC is an equal opportunities employer



PUBLIC &amp; HEALTHCARE

Managing Consultant  
(Development)

£28,975 to £48,314 (including Performance Related Pay)

Leeds

The National Health Service Executive Headquarters is responsible for the development and implementation of health care strategy in England.

Within the Human Resources Directorate a new post has been recently created to lead the new NHS Development Unit currently based in Bristol. The Unit is due to move to the NHS Executive HQ in Leeds during the spring of 1996. Key responsibilities of the post will include: the identification of development requirements arising from the Annual Priorities and Planning Guidance and the work of the NHS and, to develop and agree on central development initiatives for the NHS.

You will be expected to have development experience in a large public or private sector organisation and a record of achievement commensurate with this post. You will have high quality interpersonal skills, and the ability to work with senior managers in the Department of Health and NHS. Knowledge

and experience of the NHS is desirable, but not essential.

This post will be offered on an initial contract of five years with the possibility of being made permanent. Secondment terms can also be considered.

For an informal discussion about the post, please contact the Head of Non-Medical Workforce Planning, Education and Training, Gill Newton on 0113 254 5687.

For more details and an application form (to be returned by 18th January 1996), write to Recruitment & Assessment Services, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 7JB, or telephone Basingstoke (01256) 468551 (answerphone), or fax 01256 846374/846660. Please quote reference B2779.

As an equal opportunities employer the Department of Health welcomes applications regardless of gender, race, disability or sexuality.

NHS  
Executive  
Headquarters

RAS

## The Royal National Theatre

will be appointing

## a successor to Richard Eyre

Director of the Theatre, to begin on 1st October 1997 and to work in the interim with Richard Eyre and the Executive on future Planning.

Applications, which will be treated in strict confidence, should be sent to:

The Chairman, Royal National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 9PX.

The closing date for applications is 31st January 1996.

Further information can be obtained from the Board and Committee Secretary, tel: 0171 928 2033, extension 243.

AIMING TO BE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER



## EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

MUTUAL FUNDS  
SALES

Competitive salary + benefits

Our client is the investment arm of a leading financial institution. An important area of their business expansion is the marketing of their investment products and services in Europe and Asia.

Effective communication with the branch network in France, Belgium and Germany is crucial to their success. This newly created role will focus on wholesaling and training; wholesaling through the branch staff and management, which demands the identification and translation of customer needs into products; and training which is vital to ensure branch staff have the product knowledge and sales skills to sell the products to the customer base.

You will need a broad understanding of the financial markets, and an in-depth knowledge of economics. You must be able to demonstrate effective teaching skills and have a good track record in sales. Fluency in French and German along with an understanding of Dutch is essential in order to train branch staff in their own language. An MBA is desirable.

In the first instance, please send your full CV and covering letter to RH6044, Stafford Long & Partners Recruitment Limited, 30-32 Whitfield Street, London W1P 6HR.



RECRUITMENT ADVERTISING &amp; PARTNERS



# ON-LINE WITH THE FUTURE.

Compaq Computer is a world leader in the manufacture of PC Servers, desktop, portable and notebook personal computers. Founded in 1982, the Company reported record sales of \$10.9 billion in 1994. For the Marketing Portable Division of our Europe, Middle East & Africa (EMEA) Headquarters based in Munich, which is responsible for Compaq's international marketing business, we have the following vacancy:

## TELECOM PRODUCT MANAGER

Your key responsibilities will include the development and execution of our Portables Product Group telecommunication and technical Marketing strategy. Furthermore you will develop channel/partner programs to ensure our success on the wireless market and act as an interface between the Compaq Corporation, the European Headquarters and the regional subsidiaries. Working closely together with the EMEA Engineering Group it also will be your task to manage the product development.

Our ideal candidate should have a university degree (technical/business) with solid Sales/Marketing background. A minimum of 3 years work experience in the IT-industry - preferable hardware sector - as product or sales manager and sound experience in dealing with vendors are expected. A convincing professional manner, good knowledge of portable PC business including GSM/PCMCIA/PDA technologies and excellent presentation and communication skills are indispensable. The international nature of our activities means that fluent spoken and written English is a must - another major European language would be advantageous.

If you are a teamplayer and motivated worker we would like to hear from you.

To apply please send your CV to Ms. Gisela Klinke, Human Resources, Compaq Computer EMEA GmbH, Postfach 810244, D-81902 München.

COMPAQ

## Global Network Services Sales

### • London, the South & Northern UK

Please send your CV,  
giving salary details,  
quoting the relevant  
reference number  
to the TSI Group,  
Columbia Centre,  
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Bracknell, RG12 1JG, UK.  
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■ Our client's impeccable reputation and service portfolio are matched by an uncompromising will to win. For you that means the credibility, backing and status you need to achieve your full personal potential - and to earn the rewards you should expect of such an internationally successful enterprise.

■ These are opportunities to advance your career with a dynamic organisation. One that is among the few genuinely World Class service providers.

#### Pre-Sales Support Consultant

c.£36k ref. ST-0347

■ You will be the datacomms technical authority, supporting bids across all data services including X.25, Frame Relay, Managed Networks - plus value added services for telex, fax and e-mail.

■ Your primary responsibilities will encompass needs definition, network design and technical validation. You will also be a key interface for customers, delivering presentations as required.

■ A background of 5 years in tele/datacomms is essential, gained with either a user or vendor. Knowledge of client/server environments will be an advantage. You should also demonstrate the skill to determine critical factors in customer application needs.

#### Major Account Sales

to £65k OTE ref. ST-0348

■ Here, you will focus on key blue-chip customers as well as new prospects within a specified vertical sector.

■ Your responsibilities will range from identifying and developing opportunities, to board-level relationship management.

■ If you have an outstanding background in datacomms/network sales, this is an exceptional opportunity to move your career into global managed network services.

■ Ideally a graduate, you should demonstrate your ability to add value by analysing business needs.

#### New Business Sales

c.£60k OTE ref. ST-0349

■ These roles focus on the fast-moving international voice traffic market. This represents a superb opportunity for you to move to the front-line of the industry.

■ Your brief will be to open up new-name business opportunities for international network services within the UK corporate market. You will need a demonstrable track record of success in telecom sales, gained over at least 5 years with a PABX/Network or similar vendor.

Central London



OTE \$25k-\$55k  
+ car + benefits

### SALES CONSULTANTS

The Company: We are part of Parity plc, a fully quoted company and provide contract IT staff to industry, commerce and Government throughout the UK & Europe. We are a large successful sales organisation with an annual turnover in excess of £80m. Our market is buoyant and we seek young sales professionals to join in our expansion.

The Role: Based at our Victoria office, our sales consultants operate in a defined territory or market sector. Earnings comprise a basic salary, plus substantial commissions with many fringe benefits. We offer opportunity, training, high rewards, fun and a fast career progression for the really high fliers.

The Person: You will be young (22-30) and have experience of quota earning sales in a business to business environment. Experience in our industry is not essential - proven sales ability and ambition is. (Currently you may be selling airline, media or office equipment, it does not matter which, as long as you can sell). Those without professional selling experience need not apply.

Applications, in writing with full CV quoting reference ST211, should be sent to: Fiona Rogers, Directors Secretary, CSS Trident Plc, 12-18 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH. Tel: 0171 881 2000 Fax: 0171 259 0017

PARITY

### MAJOR SAUDI ARABIAN TRADING COMPANY OPERATING IN THE FOOD SECTOR

#### SEEKS

#### PERSONAL ASSISTANT/SECRETARY TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

British university degree.

Good presentability, friendly personality.

Proficiency in:

- commercial matters (purchases and sales, shipping, insurance, documentary credits and bank transactions);
- travel arrangements;
- use of personal computers (spread-sheet and word processing).

Perfect knowledge of written and spoken English. Knowledge of Arabic and Arabic culture preferred but not essential. Knowledge of accounting also preferable.

We offer long-term employment in a good working environment, salary according to experience, furnished accommodation, one month annual paid leave with air tickets for employee and family, company car and medical assistance.

Candidates are requested to indicate desired annual salary.

Applications, hand-written and accompanied by CV with references and recent picture, to:

Deputy Managing Director

(Personal and Confidential)

P.O. Box 4150, Jeddah 21491, Saudi Arabia.

## Systems Professionals

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Whether you're an experienced or a first-time freelancer (or perhaps a permanent who's considering a switch to contracting) we're ready to pull out all the stops on your behalf. Our aim is to add value to your skills through the quality of service we provide.

Lucrative contracts in blue chip organisations are available now. Relevant skills include relational database, client server, case tools and PCs as well as those associated with mainframe and mid-range environments. There are opportunities from Analyst Programmer to Senior Project Manager level.

Call Natasha Cleave or Claire Mowat on 0171 253 7172, or forward your cv by post or fax, and they will get back to you.

JM Contracts, Chandos House, 12-14 Berry Street, London EC1V 0AQ. Fax: 0171 253 0420.

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### Vice Chancellor

The University of Buckingham is the UK's only independent Chartered University. Founded in 1978, the University aims to provide a first class education in an environment which inspires and encourages the individual student, to promote the advancement of learning and knowledge and, through independence, to respond rapidly and judiciously to new educational opportunities and demands.

We are seeking a suitably qualified successor to replace Sir Richard Luce DL, MA, who is due to retire as Vice Chancellor in March 1997.

Further details about the post are available from Mr J Elder, The Director of Administration & Resources, The University of Buckingham, Buckingham MK18 1EG. Tel: (01280) 820280. Fax No. (01280) 820223. The closing date for applications is 31 January 1996.



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Cardiff	01222 50 1110	Sheffield	0114 282 088
Edinburgh	01703 380 880	Nottingham	0115 253 088
Birmingham	0121 808 098	Southampton	01703 380 880
Exeter	01392 445 344	St Albans	01727 888 010
Gloucester	01452 28 098	The Poolmans	01782 50 098
Warrick	01925 42 098	Wolverhampton	01902 70 098



FINANCIAL TIMES  
Information

### Product Marketing Managers - City

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Excellent opportunities have arisen for 3 innovative and enthusiastic Product Marketing Managers within FT Information, the market leading business and financial markets information division of the Financial Times Group.

Reporting to the Market Development Manager, the successful candidates will form part of a growing team focussing on the strategic development and growth of specific product lines and market areas.

Applicants must have a minimum of 2 years product management or marketing experience, preferably in the financial or business information markets. For 2 of the positions we are looking for specific experience in one or more of the following areas: fund management, index tracking, mergers and acquisitions/analyst, global custody and settlements. Successful candidates will need to demonstrate a thorough understanding of all aspects of marketing and be capable of assimilating information on a technical level. The ability to influence and manage multi-functional project teams and impressive communications skills will also be critical.

If you feel you have the necessary qualities to be a successful product champion and possess the drive and commitment for these challenging roles, please write enclosing your CV and covering letter with details of your current salary to: Personnel Department, Ref: Product Marketing, FT Information, 13-17 Epsworth Street, London, EC2A 4DL.

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If you feel you are the Candidates we are looking for, please send your comprehensive CV by Express Mail Service to:

The Personnel Manager  
P.O. Box 5987 - Dammam 31432  
SAUDI ARABIA  
Phone (066-3) 821-1395  
Fax (066-3) 821-1540 / 822-1115

### GARDINER & THEOBALD FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

is seeking a

#### Business Development Director

GTFM is a successful consultancy group which has been operating for a number of years advising blue chip companies on all aspects of establishing or outsourcing their facilities management requirements.

In order to progress the consultancy's future and further expand the active management of facilities arrangements a key senior director is required to organise and implement a business development plan.

The successful candidate must have a record of achievement in a similar or related role gained over the last five year period. You will be required to demonstrate management skills and possess credibility and confidence to motivate an existing team through a period of substantial growth.

Applications in confidence with career and salary details to Joseph Burns at:

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GARDINER  
& THEOBALD



*Digital Centre of Excellence*



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All applicants will be dealt with in the strictest confidence. Please forward a curriculum vitae to:  
**REF: EXP/ST/2595, Litchfield Associates N.V.**  
Kruisweg 825A, 2132 NG Hoofddorp, Netherlands  
Fax: (31) 23.5626737

# Mondial

**THE OFFSHORE INTERNATIONAL  
FINANCIAL ADVISOR**

The Company strives to maintain the highest ethical and professional behaviour, which includes a 'know your client' and 'best advice' relationship between our consultants and our clients. Our selection and training programmes for management, consultants and administrators are driven by this standard.

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CVs must be submitted by 5 January 1996. Informal discussions will be held for both posts. Final interviews: Director of Patient Care - 12 January 1996  
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Gwent & Rhymney Valley Health Authority  
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Candidates must be British Citizens and must be able to show a close connection with the United Kingdom. The appointment will be for five years with the possibility of an extension for a further five years. Current starting salary is in the range £37,400 to £55,802 which includes a performance related element.

For more details and an application form (to be returned by 1st February 1996), write to Recruitment & Assessment Services, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 7JB, or telephone Basingstoke (01256) 468551 (answerphone), or fax 01256 846374/846660. Please quote reference B2741.

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Foreign & Commonwealth Office

RAS

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Although applicants with lengthy experience in the patent field are preferred, applicants with less experience are also invited.

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Mats Pärup, Senior Director, Patents, and Susanne Ås Sivborg, Associate Director, Patents would be pleased to answer any inquiries. Phone +46 8 553 262 82 resp. +46 8 553 256 29.

Applications in writing marked "Patent Specialist" should be sent by 10 January 1996 to Mats Naclér, Human Resources, Astra AB, S-151 85 Södertälje, Sweden.

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# Scholars who thrive on brain and brawn

**S**o you don't have to be thick to get a Blue. In the car park at Wickenham just before the Varsity match last week the truth was revealed — university sportsmen these days are winners even in the academic arena.

An Oxford University task force, chaired by Dr Richard Cooper, of the university's sports development office, has found that the degrees won by the sportsmen outclass the average — there were at least two firsts there in the Dark Blue rugby squad, Mark Reilly and Clive Jones, and there were 21s scattered all over the place. This is great news, not just for Oxford but for college students and schoolchildren everywhere.

For there has been a continuing and emotive debate about the status and role of sport in our universities and schools with, on the one hand, the ridiculous myth that playing games simply rules out academic achievement and, on the other, that success in sport can be achieved only by specialised academics or selective sporting scholarships.

After the Barcelona Olympics, the British Olympic Association set up a study into how we might improve our chances of medals at the Atlanta games next year. One of the findings was that we lag way behind countries like the United States and Australia

in awarding sports scholarships, with Bath and Stirling among the few in the business at all. Big money and lavish facilities are tempting hundreds of our best young sportsmen and women to campuses in the United States every year. In America, college sport is big business, with TV and sponsorship money to spend. In Australia, the lion's share of £180 million is being poured into universities and colleges in the run-up to the next Olympics.

The Australians are very hot, too, on sporting academies of excellence — an idea picked up by John Major and the Minister for Sport, Iain Sproule. There is much debate about where we should site a British academy of sporting excellence and what form it should take.

But the sorry truth is that the failure of many of our sporting teams has little to do with the lack of new specialist academies, but plenty to do with the way we have let sport in schools wither and almost perish. As the study on the Oxford Blues demonstrates, we already have places to develop all-round excellence. What we have to do is to make sure they get the right raw material by getting sport back into the school curriculum and by putting an absolute stop to the selling-off of school playing fields for short-term gain.



Throughout the Seventies and Eighties, sport as a contribution to a broad education was viewed with suspicion and even hostility. Competitive sport became a particular target of the anti-sport lobby, and there was a feeling that admissions tutors, particularly at Oxford and Cambridge, would do almost anything to keep games players out. That looks like a big mistake in the light of the findings of Dr Cooper's Oxford task force. The university, he said, "has a firm line that we do not let in anybody who isn't up to it academically. But the top sportsmen tend to be tremendous organisers, who pack a lot into their day."

Educationally, the sportsmen may well be reclaiming ground that historically was theirs in the first place. The ancient Greeks, who gave us practically all of the legacy that has become modern sport, were the first to start hanging around the

gymnasium. Professor H. A. Harris, who researched and wrote wonderfully on Greek athletics, tells us that "many Greeks felt for their gymnasium the same loyalty and affection that some men today still feel for their school or university."

For the Greeks, their gymnasium was much more than a sports centre — it was the focus of their cultural, intellectual and social life. They were decorated with statues and paintings, and were often the venue for poetry readings, concerts, debates and lec-

The idea that sportsmen should not achieve the highest academic honours would have been laughable to them. The great Plato competed in the Isthmian games as a wrestler, and the legendary Milo won victories at five successive Olympic Games. Milo laid on some formidable demonstrations of his prodigious strength. He is said once to have carried a bull all the way round the stadium at Olympia — and then to have eaten it in a day. When his followers presented him with a life-size stone statue of himself he heaved it unaided up the stadium steps. And for a party trick he would tie a ribbon around his forehead and burst it by swelling his veins.

Milo also served his city well. He won accolades as a scholar and military leader, and was part of the elite intellectual group which gathered around the philosopher and mathematician, Pythagoras, whose daughter he is said to have married.

It is to be hoped that, thanks to the work of Dr Cooper and his team proving that even great sporting prowess is no bar to academic achievement these days, Milo might be just the sort of chap to catch the eye of even the most demanding of those Oxbridge admission tutors.

JOHN BRYANT

## The gym was the focus of social and cultural life

## We have to get sport back on the curriculum

# Eton quartet achieve singular success

By Sally Jones

AFTER a quarter of a century of near-misses, Eton are assured of winning the elite senior singles event of the public schools rackets championship, the Foster Cup, before a ball of the final is struck today. The title was secured after the quarter-finals — when the four Etonians in the event won their matches, to the delight of the school's veteran rackets professional, Norwood Cripps, and a vociferous gallery of Etonians old and new, all desperate to add to a bulging trophy cabinet.

The school had already achieved a record, fielding three of the top four seeds, in the favourite, Neal Bailey, and the third and fourth seeds, Patrick Wigan and Guy Smith-Bingham. The only unseeded Etonian, Dominic Palmer-Tomkinson, eliminated Angus Falconer, the No 2 seed, from Malvern, on the opening day.

Palmer-Tomkinson then belied his reputation for inconsistency by eliminating the dogged Edward Craig, of Winchester, in the last of the quarter-finals. With Bailey, Wigan and Smith-Bingham already through in straight games, all the pressure was on him to complete a clean sweep and, despite a gritty comeback by Craig, who led by two games to one and 10-6, Palmer-Tomkinson kept his nerve and blasted his way out of trouble.

After the semi-finals went according to seeding, Bailey



Eton boys, from left, Wigan, Bailey, Palmer-Tomkinson and Smith-Bingham enjoy their Foster Cup clean sweep. Photograph: Hugh Roulledge

and Smith-Bingham will meet in the main event today. Until now, the Foster Cup has been the only singles trophy to elude Cripps throughout his 17 years at the school, although

his pupils have lifted 17 other national titles in the lower age group. This will be Eton's first victory in the event since Robin Drysdale, the tennis international, took the title 25 years ago and Cripps confessed that the weight of expectation from success-hungry parents and old boys was becoming oppressive.

"There's been a lot of pressure in the past; knives in the back and people nagging me about why we hadn't won a senior title for so long, particularly because we've got such a

big, thriving rackets club — around 100 boys playing in one half [term]," he said.

"But in fact whenever we had a talented boy who looked a possible winner — like Guy Smith-Bingham's elder brother, Alex, for example — it has always seemed that he would be in the same year as a really outstanding lad from another school: Matthew Windows, from Clifton, in Alex's case — so our boys would reach the final but never quite make it. "This time though, we've been incredibly lucky to have

four very good lads coming through at the same time. They are all fine athletes — Bailey is also the captain of football and recently scored two goals to win the Berkshire League final — Wigan is captain of squash, Palmer-Tomkinson is rackets captain and Smith-Bingham has never lost a singles match in the public schools championship.

"They all get on well and really spur each other on, practising together and also playing a lot with me and several top old Etonians, like

the former world champions, Willie Boone and Mark Hue Williams. I'm proud that they play really nice rackets with good technique, not just relying on strength and a good eye to thrash the ball about. They're getting pretty close to me now, so I have to rely on guile to beat them."

As for celebrations? "We'll be having a big dinner party for them next half and, whoever wins the final, I think all four of them should be feeling pretty festive as they go home for Christmas."

## Mayer completes victory for Britain

By Sydney Friskin

THE Great Britain men's hockey team gave a satisfactory performance in defeating Egypt 2-0 in the first of two international matches in Cairo yesterday and will play another match against them today.

Garcia gave the British team an encouraging start with a flick into the net from a short corner in the third minute. However, the match was made safe only

three minutes before the end when Robert Thompson eluded the goalkeeper and back-passed to Mayer, who scored. The award of nine short corners to each side summed up the balance of play to which David Whitaker, the British coach, gave his own reaction.

"We allowed Egypt to exert pressure in the first half but we grabbed the match back and played adequately at times, creating enough chances to win," he said. Green warning cards were shown

to Malls and Fordham, of Britain, and Bilal Ibrahim and Ibrahim Tawfik, of Egypt.

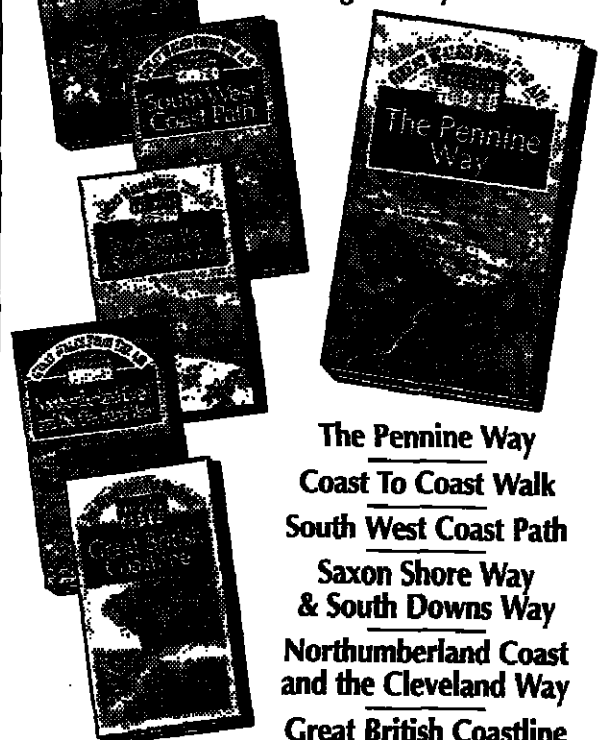
EGYPT: Haim Gamal, Rashid Tawfik, Abdel Moamin, Abdel Kader, Magdy Abdalla, Bilal Ibrahim, Mohamed Elsayed, Yasser Morsim, Mahmoud Samir, Imed Amin, Mohamed Yassir. Subs used: Ahmed Abbas, Mohamed Mahmoud, Amro Fattah, Mohamed Saleh.

Great Britain's team: J. Hall, J. Wyatt, G. Fordham, K. Taylor, S. Lewis, C. Mayer, R. Thompson, J. Lusk, (capt), N. Thompson. Subs used: S. Smith, D. Hall, C. Giles, J. Shaw.

Umpires: Ayman Amin (Egypt) and Hisham Kohary (Egypt).

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## WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 45

### OUTER

(a) To extinguish, to put out. United States dialect. M. K. Rawlings, *South Moon Under*, 1933: "Outer that light."

### PUNGY

(b) A small boat used in oyster-dredging. United States dialect. W. Churchill, *Ellinor Rummaging*, 1929: "The big ship was already sliding into the water as I leaped into my pungy."

### RIBSKIN

(c) A leather apron worn by women for ribbing flax. A covering for one's ribs. Skelton, *Ellinor Rummaging*, 1929: "They layde to pledge their wharrows, they rybskyn and they spyndell."

### PUNDIGRION

(d) A pun, a quibble. Earlier form or derivative of pun. Southey, *Omniana*, 1812: "Many will lose their friend rather than their jest, or their quibble, pun or pundigrion."

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## SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)		Conditions	Runs to	Weather	Last
	L	U	Piste	On/Off	(5pm)	snow
				resort	°C	
ANDORRA						
Soldeu	30	100	good	crusty	sun	1 18/12
(Excellent skiing under sunny skies; 15 of 21 lifts open)						
AUSTRIA						
Obergurgl	55	60	good	powder	good	cloud 0 18/12
(Pistes mostly good despite odd warm patch; no queues)						
St Anton	15	120	good	heavy	warm	rain 2 18/12
(Poor weather but snow good on higher runs)						
Schladming	30	60	good	varied	fair	cloud 5 20/12
(Mostly good but lower pistes becoming warm)						
Soi	15	50	fair	varied	closed	cloud -1 18/12
(Some pistes good, others varied; snow forecast)						
FRANCE						
Alpe d'Huez	40	100	good	varied	good	cloud 2 17/12
(Still plenty of good skiing but some very thin areas)						
Avoriaz	45	65	fair	varied	fair	cloud 0 18/12
(Skiing limited in effect to four main pistes)						
La Plagne	20	50	fair	varied	closed	cloud 5 18/12
(Only glacier and one other piste open)						
Tignes	15	100	good	heavy	art	snow 2 20/12
(Good piste skiing on glacier marked by high winds)						
Val d'Isère	15	100	fair	poor	art	cloud 6 18/12
(Some good skiing at altitude; lower runs very warm)						
Val Thorens	15	50	fair	varied	fair	snow -2 20/12
(Good snow on higher slopes; pistes uncrowded)						
SWITZERLAND						
Verbier	25	80	good	varied	good	cloud 1 18/12
(Good piste skiing but flat light; 19 of 38 lifts open)						
Zermatt	0	70	fair	poor	closed	cloud -5 18/12
(Very few skiers about; glacier good but poor visibility)						

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L — lower slopes; U — upper; art — artificial.

# Christmas, Swiss-style

Not the Nine Lessons and Carols. Radio 3, 9.40pm.

By constantly moving from one canton to another, this Swiss Radio production keeps its promise to capture Switzerland's rich Christmas-time diversity. The carols and biblical readings are in the country's various languages, with English translations. The choristers are the Basel Madrigalists. The lay readers express fascinatingly unorthodox opinions. One confesses that he could not cope with the goodness and peacefulness of the Garden of Eden. Another proclaims that, despite what the Bible says, the poor should not be expected to remain contented with their lot. Now you know why, in its title, this programme implicitly celebrates itself from the glorious Christmas Eve broadcast from King's College, Cambridge.

Tales of the Bizarre: The Jac. Radio 4, 11.00pm.

Ray Bradbury rarely writes about anything pleasant. He called one of his novels *Something Wicked This Way Comes*, which just about sums up what he does so well. *The Jac* is a grotesque, a parody, Charlie (Roger May) buys a jar from a carnival tent. It contains what the looks like the embryo of a baby. Rummily ignored by the townspeople, Charlie becomes a celebrity. Somebody asks whether this strange purchase is an omen. Or a postscript to a tragedy? Or is it a child, or just some old junk? To Charlie, this "pale thing in a floating world" could be an emperor in his palace. Everybody could be right — or wrong. That is Ray Bradbury for you. Peter Daville

## RADIO 1

FM Stereo, 4.00am Clive Warren 6.30 Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Joe Pasquale 12.00 News 12.45 News 1.15 The Net 3.00 Mark Goodier, incl. at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session. A festive pop quiz. 8.00 Soundbite 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00 Claire Sells

## RADIO 2

FM Stereo, 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 6.15 Praise for Thought 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.15 Praise for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Debbie Thompson 3.30 Ed Sheeran 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Change at Oglethorpe 7.30 David Allen 9.00 Paul Jones 9.45 The Gospel Train 10.30 The Jamisons 12.00pm Gavin Hastings, incl. at 1.30 Praise for Thought 3.00 Alex Lester

## RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl. at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl. at 6.35 and 7.05 Racing Preview 8.00 The Magazine, incl. at 10.35 Euronews and at 11.00 News. Gut Reaction 12.00 Midday with Mair, incl. at 12.34pm Moneycheck and at 1.15 Entertainment News 2.00 Race on Five, incl. at 3.15 Question Time 3.45 Entertainment News 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide, incl. at 5.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra, incl. at 7.30 7.25 On the Line 8.05 Women on Top 9.05 SportsAmerica 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, incl. at 11.15 The Financial World Tonight 12.00am Night Moves 2.05 Up All Night

## TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr 7.00 Simon Bates 10.00 Jonathan King 12.00 Tommy Boyd 2.00pm Anne Robinson 4.00 Scott Chisholm and Louisa Turner 7.00 Sean Bodge 9.00 Muz Dee 10.00 James White 1.00-4.00am Ian Collins

## VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Rude: 'n' Jono 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Home 7.30 Paul Oake 10.30 Mark Forster 12.00-4.00am Robi Bantz

## RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Penny Gore. Rossini (Overture, The Silver Ladder); Tchaikovsky (Fantasy Overture, Romeo and Juliet); 6.28 Symphony Series: Mozart (Symphony No 38 in C, K. 504) Correll (Sonata in F, Op. 5 No 4); Arnold (Choral Sonata); Chopin (Waltz in A minor, Op 34 No 2); Handel (Chandos Anthem No 4, O sing unto the Lord a new song)

9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini, Poulenc (L'Embarcadour, Cythere); Beethoven (Cello Sonata in C); Chopin (Piano Concerto No 1 in E minor)

10.00 Musical Encounters. Albinoni (Trumpet Concerto in C); Purcell (Ballet for the Queen Who can from joy refrain?); 11.00 Artist of the Week: Martin Roose, piano, plays George Lloyd (Piano Concerto No 1, Suspect); Tchaikovsky (The Sleeping Beauty, excerpts)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Zelenka (Laudate Dominum: Trio Sonata No 3 in B flat; Psalm 150, Chvalte Bohu slavnost); Quarez (Concerto in G for flute, cello and continuo); Zelenka (Psalm 113, in exultation)

1.00pm British Opera Matinee: Death in Venice. English Chamber Orchestra under Stuart Bedford performs Benjamin Britten's swansong, based on the story by Thomas Mann. With Peter Peers, John Shirley Quirk and James Bowman

3.45 Brief Lives. The untimely death of Thomas Linley the younger in 1778 has been described as one of the greatest losses that English music has suffered (30)

4.25 The BBC Scottish Orchestra under Alexander Gibson performs Beethoven's Ninth (Leningrad and the Maidens of Sam) (30)

5.00 The Music Machine. Sir John Manduell, Stephen Goble and Fritz Spigall choose their musical lists and discuss

5.15 In Tune. David Owen Norris and Ian Stewart, author of *Does a Fly Die?*, consider the theological aspirations of composers

7.30 Amsterdam Mahler Festival. The third of 15 concerts. The Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra under Bernard Haitink performs Symphony No 2, Resurreximus

9.20 Cinema 100: The Dream Project. The producer Stephen Woolley talks about his ultimate fantasy film (30)

9.40 Not the Nine Lessons and Carols. See Choice

10.45 Night Waves in Las Vegas. Tony Palmer on the city's new emphasis on fun for all the family

11.30-12.30am The BBC Orchestra. BBC Concert Choir under Barry Wordsworth perform previously unrecorded works by Gustav Holst, including *Christmas in a Garden* and *The Coming of Christ*; Heube's *Lament* is sung by the mezzo Catherine Cairns; Alan Bush (Piers Ploughman's Day)

## RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Bulletin, incl. 6.05 Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, incl. 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 8.35, 7.55 Weather 7.25, 8.35 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.55 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 The Moral Maze 10.00-10.30 News; King Street Junior (FM only). School comedy (30)

10.00 Daily Service (LW only) 10.15 Those Glorious Songs of Old (LW only) (45) 10.30 Women's Hour, introduced by Jenni Murray. Short story: *Electric Anxieties*, by E. Annie Proulx

11.30 From Our Own Correspondent 12.00 News; You and Yours 12.25pm Wordly Wise. Peter Hobday chairs the panel game. With Francis Whear, Susan Jefferys, Times columnist Lynda Furse and Graham Norton 12.55 Weather

1.00 The World at One 1.40 The Archers (1) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News; Sealed with a Kiss, by Patrick Cumpar. Jolette Simon plays Ellen, a romantic novelist on a country retreat, who is torn between her neighbours. With Doreen Crill

3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift. The story of how 200 shipbuilders spent Christmas 1958 on board the QE2 4.00 News 4.45 Kaleidoscope. Paul Allen visits the lighthouse in Norway, and there is a preview of the season's highlights on radio

4.45 The Story of Doctor Dolittle, by Hugh Lofting. Read by Alan Stewart (45) 5.00 PM, with Chris Lowe and Nigel Wrench 5.50 Shipping Forecast 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Old Henry's Game. A comedy series by Andy Hamilton. With Andy Hamilton and James Grant (50)

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Wish Me Luck as You Were Here. Goodbye, Harry Thompson presents a dramatic look at the business of death

8.00 H.G. Wells: the Invisible. Author: Brian Morton explains that Wells widened the "class" definition of the English novel (1)

8.45 Shell Lives: Parler. Nigel Cassidy tells the story of the mineral water's rise, fall and rebirth

9.00 Does He Take Sugar? The actress and author Rosemary Brown shares her experiences as a cabaret performer in post-war Britain

9.30 Kaleidoscope (1) (50) 10.00 The World Tonight, with Owen Bernard Jones. The coronation party in post-war Britain

10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Go-Between, by L.P. Hartley. Read by John Rowe (2/10) 11.00 Ray Bradbury introduces *Tales of the Bizarre*. See Choice

11.30 Ad Lib. Robert Robinson poses below stairs (1) 12.00 News 12.25pm Shipping Forecast 12.30 The Late Book News. Smith's Festivity Box. See below by Peter Lord (1/10) 12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FRE



200

The real question was, do they know they are bass? The hunt for answers and the answer was the genius of Christopher Sykes, genuinely thought-provoking film and the general conclusion was bad news for anyone wrapping presents for little Tiddles. "I think it will be very difficult for some people to accept," warned one ethnologist (now there's a word you don't see on your television every day), "because it will mean they have over-endowed these charming creatures with mental lives." Never mind, do they know it's Christmas? Do they know they're cats?

## CHANNEL 4

**9.35am** **Ulysses 31** (1852841)  
**9.00 The Big Breakfast** (24228)  
**9.00 Saved By The Bell** (r) (Telexit) (8428589)  
**9.25 Babylon 5: Soul Hunter** (r) (Telexit) (s) (3021711)  
**10.20 California Dreams** (r) (2639597) **10.45 Biker Mice From Mars** (5891711)  
**11.10 Mork and Mindy** (r) (7208537) **11.40 Dog City** (r) (s) (4403593) **12.00 Greasy Crawlers** (r) (s) (2555529) **12.20pm Heide and Jackie** (8381589)  
**12.30 Sesame Street** (31824) **1.30 The Wonderful Wizard of Oz** (5600895)  
**5.45 Ginger Nutt's Christmas Circus** (2788217) **2.00 Bottom's Dream** (5001995)  
**12.10 FILM: Monkey Business** (1952). Comedy starring Gary Grant as a scientist in search of a drug to halt the ageing process. With Ginger Rogers and Arthur Murray. Directed by Howard Hawks (76603)  
**3.00 Think Tank** (Telexit) (s) (567)  
**3.30 Fifteen to One** (Telexit) (s) (841)  
**4.00 Ricki Lake** (Telexit) (7829624)  
**4.45 45 Tertyoons** (147256)  
**5.00 Home Improvement**. American comedy series (Telexit) (s) (334)  
**5.30 New Gamesmaster** presented by Dominik Diamond and Patrick Moore (s) (686)  
**6.00 Channel 4 News** (929955)  
**5.50 Beastly Christmas: The X Mas Files**. Lieutenant-Colonel Durcan Green, of Battersea Dogs Home, narrates William Wegman's canine *Cinderella* (952711)  
**6.00 Hands Up** (Telexit) (6599)  
**6.30 Sophie's Meat Course: Game Sophie** (Grisson shows how to spatchcock a quail) (Telexit) (8334)



**Michael Palin and Maggie Smith (10.00pm)**

**Michael Palin and Maggie Smith (10.00pm)**

**0.00 FILM: *A Private Practice* (1984).** Alan Bennett's comedy of social climbing and clandestine livestock in ration-stricken postwar Britain. Starring Michael Palin, Maggie Smith and Denholm Elliott. Directed by Michael Powell. (b/w) (Telnet) (338305)

**1.45 *Apache Goes Indian*** Apache Indian concludes his controversial look at Bombay (Telneted) (s) (524266)

**2.00am *Beastly Christmas: One Animal, Some Animals*** French documentary following the metamorphosis of the Zoological Gallery of the National Museum of Natural History in Paris (3973532)

**2.15 FILM: *Nightmare Alley* (1947)** starring Tyrone Power, playing against idealist kate type, as an unscrupulous fairground Barker who cons his way as a mind-reader but then turns to drink and ends up in a clinic. Directed by Edmund Goulding. Story well told. With Colleen Gray and Joan Blondell. Directed by Edmund Goulding (310087)

**2.25 *Rawhide* (b/w) (511261)**

**2.35 *The World of Hammer: Pearly Cushing* (r)** (8257342). Ends at 4.50

SATELLITE

[illegible]

interj (78439537) 6.00  
 interj (7854063) 6.00  
 121 6.30 The Critic  
 121 6.30 The Critic  
 121 6.30 The Critic  
 10.00-12.00 FILM:  
 15)  
 7:58-8:17 7.00 Living  
 7:58-8:17 The Treatment

(6025228) 11.00 The  
 Love Stories (60042042) 9.00 Tamil FILM  
 (76742978) 12.00 Deeth Bhai Deeth 12.30pm  
 India Show (82146334) 1.00 Hindi FILM  
 Sapne Sajai Ne (25126150) 4.00 Zee Top  
 Ten (44279518) 5.00 Zee Zone 5.30 Punjab  
 Folk (21375732) 6.00 Dilagi (21372605)  
 6.30 Zee and U 7.00 Highlife (58373782)  
 7.30 Gaitano (21392841) 8.00 News 8.30  
 .05 The Joker's Wild

[illegible]



Future will be discussed today

# Ireland appear ready to end Charlton era

By PETER BALL

AFTER almost ten years of unprecedented success, Jack Charlton's career as manager of Ireland is in danger of ending in confusion and bitterness. His future will be discussed when he meets Football Association of Ireland (FAI) officials in Dublin this morning, with indications that he may be pressed to resign.

To Charlton's surprise, and dismay, reports circulating yesterday suggested that the FAI was planning a press conference on the manager's position today. The reports proved false, but the implications for today's meeting are nevertheless unmistakable.

"I don't know anything about what's going on. I don't know where these reports came from," Charlton said yesterday. "They didn't come from me, and the FAI say they didn't get it from them."

"I'm going to Dublin because I'd agreed to drop in to my pub there, and I will see Sean Connolly and Louis Kilcoyne [the FAI's chief executive and president respectively], but I'm not going to any press conference. I didn't know anything about these reports."

Charlton's future has been the subject of growing speculation for some months, as Ireland frittered away a com-

manding position in their European championship qualifying group with a disastrous series of results in the summer and autumn. Things came to a head after the defeat by Holland in the play-off at Anfield last Wednesday.

In the aftermath of that failure to qualify, Charlton said that he intended to take until the new year to have a holiday and think over his future. That was apparently a small enough request from the manager who had taken Ireland to the European championships in 1988 and to the World Cup finals for the first time in 1990, when they reached the quarter-finals.



Charlton: asked for time

and again in 1994. Small, but still too much, it seems. "I had asked for a bit of time just to think," Charlton said yesterday, "but it looks like I'm not going to get it. I need to have a little think and make my mind up, but I'm being put under a ridiculous amount of pressure."

Immediately after the defeat at Anfield, Connolly said that Charlton would decide whether he wanted to stay or go. Most expected him to resign, probably in February, when he would have fulfilled a cherished ambition to complete ten years in the job. That now seems unlikely.

With his resignation anticipated, speculation has mounted, and the FAI may have decided to end the confusion. The association may also want to have a new man in place before the managers' meeting in Liechtenstein on January 23 to arrange the World Cup qualifying group fixtures.

Several caps have already been thrown into the ring by would-be successors, with Mick McCarthy, the Millwall manager, making plain his interest in the job this week. Joe Kinnear, of Wimbledon, also has some popular support. Other names drawn into recent discussion include Kenny Dalglish, Howard Wilkinson, Howard Kendall, Liam Brady, Kevin Moran and Mark Lawrenson.

Martin O'Neill is expected to be confirmed as the new manager of Leicester City within the next 24 hours. The Filbert Street club has been given official permission to open talks with the 43-year-old Irishman after his resignation as manager of Norwich City at the weekend after only six months in charge.

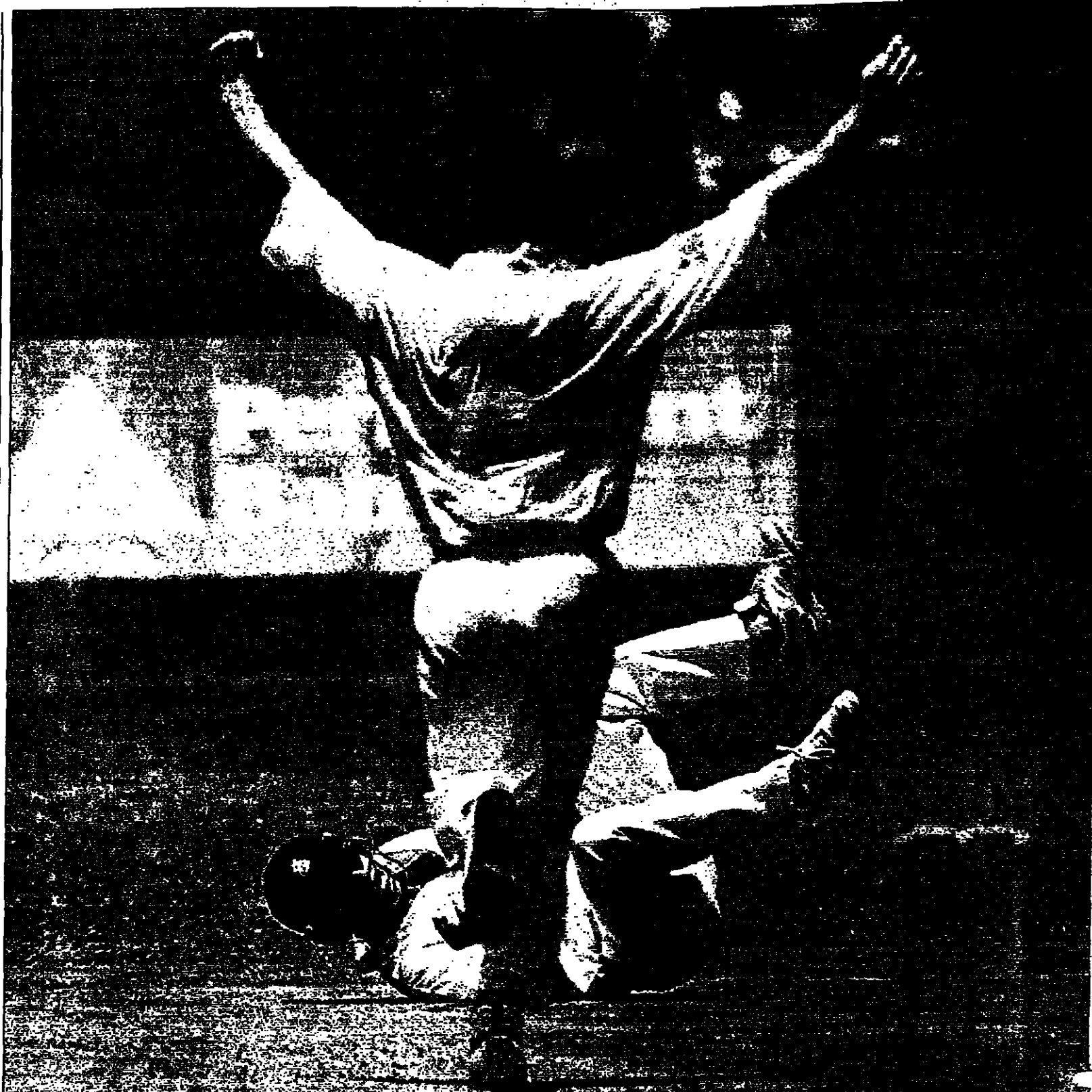
Martin George, the Leicester chairman, is negotiating a compensation deal with Norwich thought to be worth around £500,000, and O'Neill should be appointed in time for the trip to Endsleigh League first division promotion rivals, Grimsby Town.

The former Nottingham Forest midfielder player, and Northern Ireland international, came close to taking the Leicester job when it was vacated by Brian Little a year ago, but decided instead to stay with Wycombe Wanderers as they pushed for their third successive promotion.

Luton Town are hoping to name their new manager tomorrow. Mike Walker and Lennie Lawrence are apparently competing closely for the post vacated by Terry Westley on Monday.

A club spokesman insisted that the board was still considering applications yesterday, but admitted: "Mr Walker and Mr Lawrence have both been interviewed by the board and there may be an announcement tomorrow."

Walker, who had also been linked with the vacant Leicester position, has been out of management for 13 months since being dismissed by Everton. He was previously in charge of Norwich. Lawrence, a former Charlton Athletic and Middlesbrough manager, was dismissed by Bradford City last month.



Ilt runs to congratulate Robin Smith for the catch which gave him his fourth wicket in a fine opening spell. Photograph: Graham Morris

## England commuters judder to a halt

FROM ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT  
IN PIETERMARITZBURG

PIETERMARITZBURG (first day of three, South African Students XI won toss): Students XI have scored 253 for six against England XI

AS SOON as their team bus broke down on the freeway from Durban, England's cricketers sensed they were in for an unrewarding day. It was duly provided by a pair of injuries to complicate their planning for the fourth Test, starting on Boxing Day, and a maiden century from Nic Pothas, which originated amid the debris of five wickets in the opening hour.

Pothas, a regular in the Transvaal side, finished unbeaten on 141 as the England bowlers utterly failed to capitalise on their remarkable start. From an embarrassing 23 for five, the Students XI repaired, retrenched and took command, so that by the time England's replacement bus headed back towards the coast it was carrying a severely chastened cargo.

The players could be consoled only by the fact that their management team was absent. John Barclay went to Durban airport to round up a posse of incoming wives and girlfriends, while Raymond Illingworth took the day off. He would not have been impressed by most of the bowling and end-cricket, or by a fantastic attitude that prevailed from mid-afternoon. He will also be concerned to

learn of minor injury scares involving Jason Gallian and Peter Martin.

This fixture had looked, from a distance, a triviality, no more than a gentle work-out for the also-rans of the party. But with the third Test, like the first, a victim of bad weather, it assumed new importance. England picked their Test team, minus the resting Dominic Cork and competitive match practice was deemed vital.

From the outset, it did not

delivered them, it was necessary to delay the start for half an hour.

Things now happened so quickly that the students were threatened with being bowled out by lunch as Martin and Mark Ilt used the new ball effectively. While the ball was hard, the bounce of the pitch was uneven. Andy Wessels was caught at short leg off his glove and Martin van Jaarsveld was bowled by Ilt playing speculatively across the line. Martin contributed the important wicket of Gerry Liebenberg and when Ilt struck twice more in his seventh over the game looked a complete mismatch.

Martin rested with one for six from seven overs but bowled only four more overs in the day. He left the field for treatment to a strain in his right shoulder that has been disconcerting him periodically through the tour. It is not thought to be serious but England would have been happier without it.

Gallian, pitched into this game the day after his arrival from Pakistan, was evidently still suffering from jet lag as he fell over in trying to deliver his first ball. Much merriment greeted this, but there was nothing amusing about his sprint from the field, shortly after lunch, having dislocated the little finger of his left hand making a stop at cover.

The team physiotherapist, Wayne Morton, judged that Gallian would be sore for a day or two but will be fit to bat and, presumably, available for the Test. For now, at least,

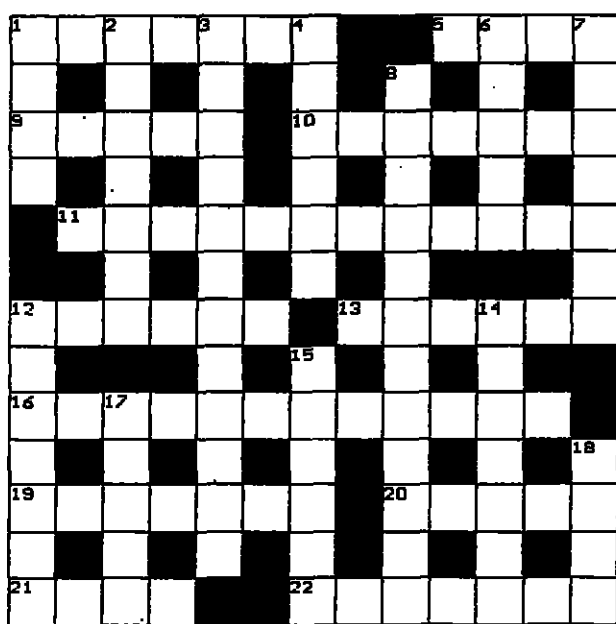
Gallian will take on the onerous No 3 position. Alec Stewart having won his case to continue as Michael Atherton's opening partner.

Pothas, a tall player of range and dexterity, did not suggest permanency when heaving an ungainly six in Richard Illingworth's first over. Brava-do in a lost cause, or so it seemed. But he played ever better as the day wore on and, after Ilt had returned to dismiss Mark Davis for 44, Pothas took complete charge.

His partnership with Nicky Boje, who is in the Test squad, is worth 145 and Boje, a compact left-hander, has made only 42 of them. Pothas was dropped once — at deep square leg by the hapless Devon Malcolm, fielding as substitute for Martin — but it was a rare lapse in an innings born out of desperation, and so far spanning four and a half hours.

Global vision, page 44  
Record forfeited, page 44

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 658 in association with  
BRITISH MIDLAND

## ACROSS

- 1 Painful choice (7)
- 5 Lighting device (4)
- 9 Dislodged piece of turf (5)
- 10 RC casket (7)
- 11 Excellent practical example (6-6)
- 12 Mrs — Household Management writer (6)
- 13 Trickery: a sweet (6)
- 16 Allow to be unrestrained (4,4,4)
- 19 "England —..." (Nelson) (7)
- 20 Rubbish (esp. US) (5)
- 21 Perform again (4)
- 22 Satisfactory outcome (7)

## DOWN

- 1 Queen of Carthage, loved Aeneas (4)
- 2 Attracting admiration (7)
- 3 Plain, unemotional (6-2-4)
- 4 Property: advantages (6)
- 5 Pile up (5)
- 7 1/100th of a D-mark (7)
- 8 Slow, rule-bound (office) (12)
- 12 Source of anxiety, annoyance (7)
- 14 Component of (army) division; work team (7)
- 15 Population count (6)
- 17 Dull, flat, empty (5)
- 18 In such a way (4)

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THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network.

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Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP. The solution will appear next Wednesday, and the winners' names on Wednesday January 10.

Name/Address

## SOLUTION TO No 657

ACROSS: 1 Hook 3 Cupboard 8 Munk 9 Gruesome 11 Close ranks 14 Drawer 15 Bottom 17 Brown study 20 Irritant 21 Ogre 22 Spandrel 23 Neon  
DOWN: 1 Homicide 2 Corporal 4 Uproar 5 Bleak House 6 Avon 7 Deed 10 Celebrated 12 Struggle 13 Emptyean 16 Twinge 18 Bias 19 Aria

## WINNERS OF TIMES TWO CROSSWORD NO 652

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2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic network is N A Brewis, New Waltham, Grimsby. All flights subject to availability.

## Venables supports vision for future

By JOHN GOODBODY

TERRY VENABLES yesterday called for more "imagination" in the teaching of football and said that it was vital that we got "our vision right" of the future style of the national game.

The England coach said: "We are in the middle of trying to shape ourselves, what our vision of football in ten or 20 years' time will be." He said that although we do some things better than other countries, we could benefit from other qualities, such as the flair of the French and the organisation of the Germans.

Venables was speaking as he launched the biggest nationwide competition to be held in schools to celebrate

the staging, in England, of the 1996 European championship. Venables will chair the panel judging the short-listed entries from up to 24,000 schools, which will produce a piece of work demonstrating knowledge and understanding of particular countries.

Venables said: "When I was at school, if you were interested in football, you could not wait for lessons to finish to get out on the field playing football. Hopefully, through their interest in football and Euro '96, this competition will help switch youngsters on to their lessons as well."

Already 3,000 schools have entered the competition, which will consist of submitting written work, a poster, a

set of postcards, a song, model and a mural or a collage, which will link the football theme with European awareness. The schools will choose one long-established European country together with one of the newly-created emerging countries as the focus of their study.

There are four separate categories: ages 5-11 (primary schools); ages 11-16 (secondary schools); ages 16-18 (tertiary schools); sixth form or tertiary colleges and special schools (all ages). The national winners will get tickets to the finals of Euro '96 and the regional winners will receive products from Canon and Philips, which are sponsoring the competition.



Venables: imagination

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